

# The WHOLE TRUTH Church of God in Christ

Purposed to inspire and inform cogic readers and christians everywheri

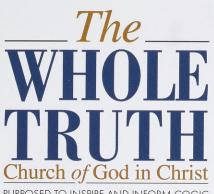
Since 1895

HONORING OUR NONAGENARIANS and CENTENARIANS

The Whole Truth Is Published Four Times A Year

November/December 2019





PURPOSED TO INSPIRE AND INFORM COGIC READERS AND CHRISTIANS EVERYWHERE

Since 189

Volume 124, Number 3

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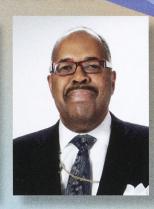
**Guest Writer** 

Dr. David Daniels

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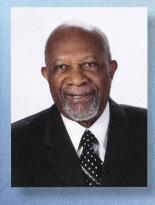


























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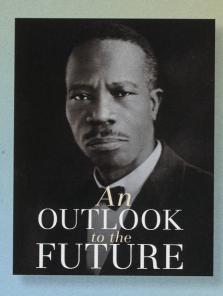
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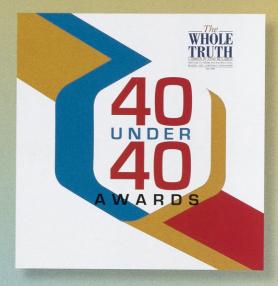
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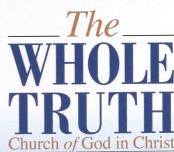
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#### From The Desk of Presiding Bishop Charles E. Blake, Sr.

"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity."

—1 Timothy 4:12

#### Greetings Dear TWT Readers:

Mainstream ideology would have us to believe that today's young adult Christians are moving farther and farther away from God's Holy Word. While undeniable that technology, social media, internet capability and an overall fast-paced society may be much for the church to contend, numerous young adults in Christendom have grabbed ahold of their foundations in Christ and are, thankfully, far from lost. This certainly holds true for many young adults within the Church of God in Christ. The Word of the Lord is forever true: "*Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it*" (*Proverbs 22:6*). It therefore makes my heart glad to honor a very dynamic group of our very own young adults – the 2019 "40 Under 40" award recipients, who are excellently presented in this edition of *The Whole Truth*.

I personally applaud these young people for the ways in which their lives have glorified the Lord thus far. This group also gives me great confidence in our future church and the way it will be carried on. It is imperative that we all remember to serve the Lord's people with humility, sacrifice, and most importantly, with love. Collectively, the 2019 "40 Under 40" award recipients are an exemplary example of this, and I pray that the honor is accepted as a small token of the church's appreciation for all that you have and will continue to accomplish. It is clear that your influence has changed the landscape of the areas that you have impacted.

Moreover, we are very excited to share previews for two significant milestones that will be achieved in 2020: the 75th Anniversary of the building of Mason Temple, and the 50th Anniversary of the C.H. Mason Theological Seminary. It is not only important for the church to recollect and reflect from whence we've come, but to ensure that current and future generations have knowledge of and appreciation for the history and longevity of our time-honored institution.

Once again, congratulations to the phenomenal forty, on behalf of the Church of God in Christ. May the Lord grant each of you long life to accomplish all that you aspire to do and be in Him, so that many souls will be harvested in His name.

In His Service.

Kall Blake, Sr. Blake, Sr.

Presiding Bishop

Church Of God In Christ, Inc.

The Seventh In Succession

DVERTISEMENT Givelify joins you in celebrating the incredible young adults in the Church of God in Christ who are making a difference in the world. From one group of world changers to another congratulations! CONVOCATION Givelify.com Church of God in Christ (COGIC) 112th Holy Convocation App Store



#### LETTER from the EDITOR

# Congratulations to the 2019 "40 Under 40 Award" Honorees!

Dear TWT Readers:

Abundant thanks for your consistent support of *The Whole Truth* magazine, where we diligently strive to inspire and inform COGIC members and Christians everywhere. In this, our last issue of 2019, we are excited to highlight and present to you an incredible cohort of 40 astute servants of the Kingdom, all under the age of 40 – the 2019 "40 Under 40" award recipients.

We called for nominations from you, the people, to comprise a group of individuals who are representative of our respected denomination and faith. The result was 40 influential young adults, who are absolutely excelling for the cause of Christ, endeavoring to honor God in lifestyle and to serve others in the process. We'd like to extend a very enthusiastic "thank you" to our loyal readers who took the time to submit the nominations that helped us to locate and honor this truly inspiring group.

Thank you to Presiding Bishop Charles E. Blake, Sr. for never failing to recognize the importance and influence of the role of our youth and young adults within the church. Many thanks to our managing editor, Robert E. Coleman, Jr., for your tireless spirit of excellence as you lead and guide such important endeavors. And a very special note of thanks to the "40 Under 40" committee members and essay judges who worked tirelessly to bring this important program to life with integrity and impartiality.

Additionally, this issue offers fresh inspiration with Evangelist DeLisa Reed's powerful read entitled, "Trust Issues", as well as Evangelist Missionary Marion McNair's thought-provoking piece - "An Offer You Can't Refuse". This issue also presents timely and informative editorials, as we keep you apprised of COGIC's upcoming milestones, such as a preview of the C.H. Mason Theological Seminary's Golden Anniversary (occurring 2020), and a highlight of the 75th Anniversary of the building of our historical world headquarters, Mason Temple (also occurring in 2020).

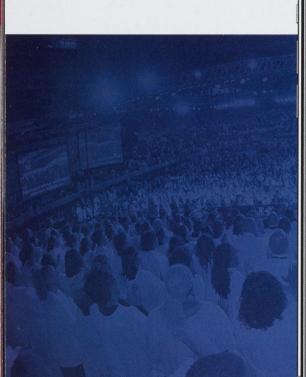
On behalf of everyone at *The Whole Trut*h magazine, we extend a very hearty "CONGRATS" to the 2019 "40 Under 40" honorees. May God continue to amply bless each of you, as you unfailingly continue to represent Christ while serving others.

By His Grace,

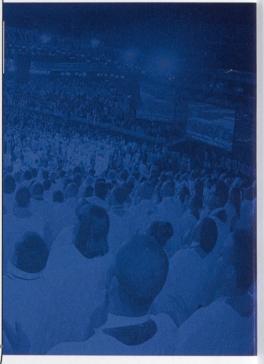
April E. Quillen

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-Bishop Frank Anthone White // Financial Secretary COGIC







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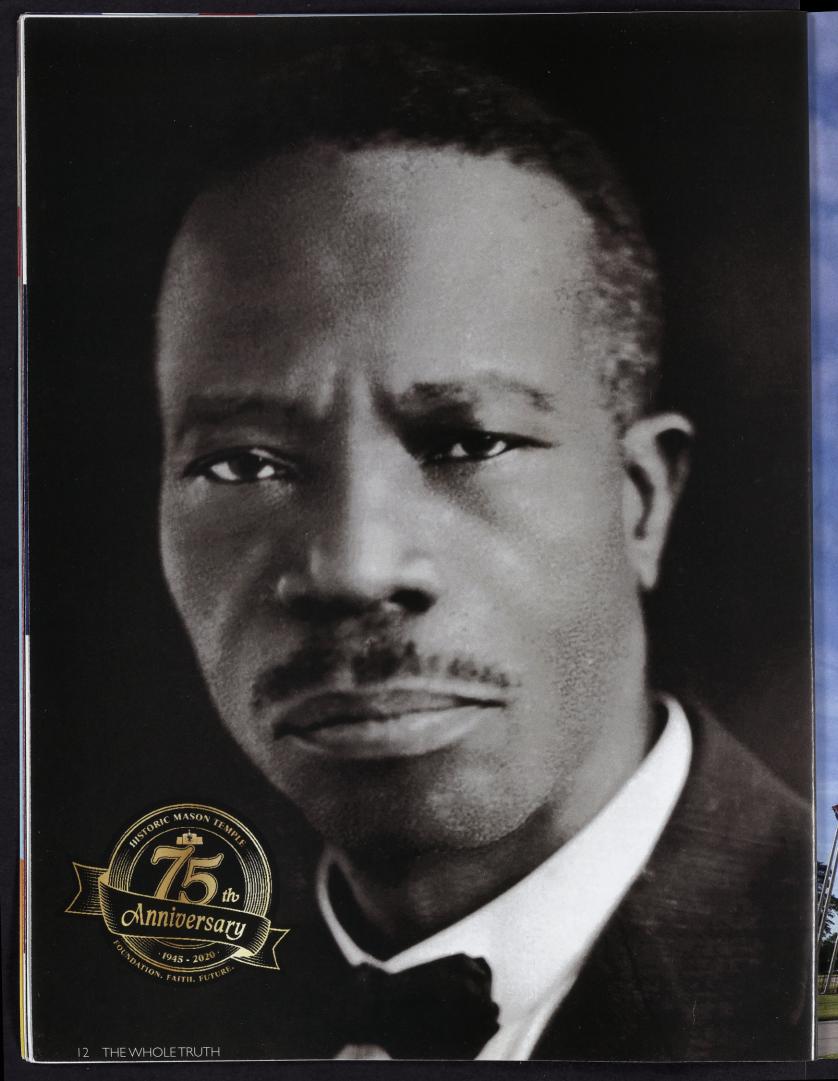
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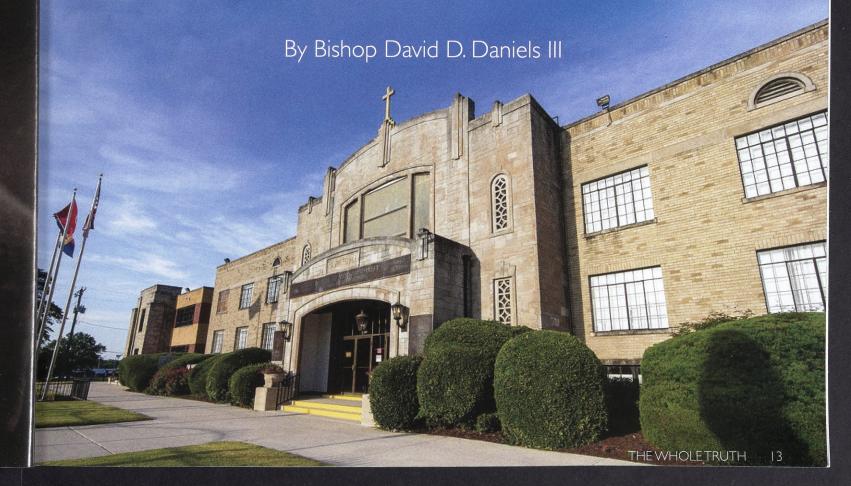
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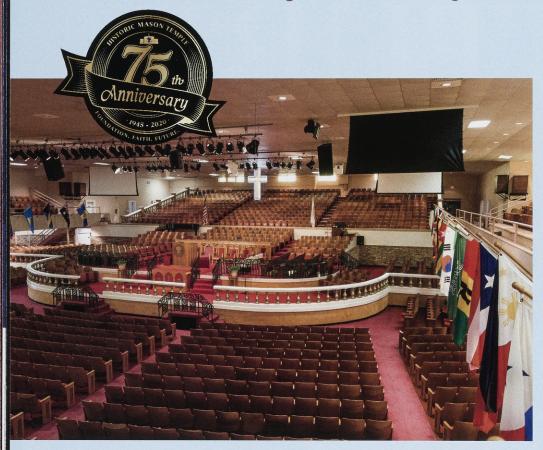


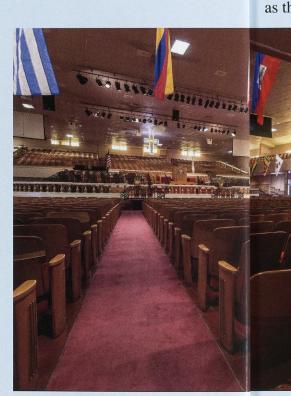
# An OUTLOOK to the FUTURE

75th Anniversary Preview:
The Building and Signficance
of the Historic Mason Temple



75 years ago, in 1945, Mason Temple opened in Memphis, Tennessee as the international edifice and world headquarters of the Church of God in Christ. Theyear 2020 will therefore mark the 75th anniversary of its grand opening. Dedicated by the denomination's founding prelate, Bishop Charles Harrison Mason, during the 38th Holy Convocation, it was declared a crowning achievement, and recognized as the largest, black-owned, religious auditorium in the world at that time. Named after Bishop Mason and completed in 1945, the dedication of Mason Temple coincided with the jubilee celebration of the Church of God in Christ as a movement that began in 1895, according to church documents of that era.





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he property on which Mason Temple was erected had previously held the National Tabernacle, the site of the Holy Convocations until 1936 when the Tabernacle was lost to a fire. Prior to the National Tabernacle, the property was owned by an African American fraternal lodge which sponsored the Royal Circle of Friends Hospital on part of the property. The former hospital facility was eventually converted to Lelia Mason Hall. The Church of God in Christ purchased this property back in 1924.

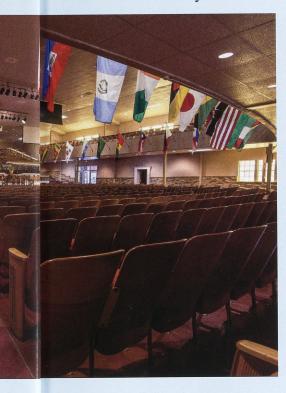
On April 12, 1940, Bishop Mason appointed Bishop Riley F. Williams of Ohio to spearhead the project of building a new, international temple on the site of the former National Tabernacle. As "building commissioner," Bishop Williams was tasked with raising funds, securing the architect, negotiating contracts, and overseeing the building project. In a letter to the denomination announcing the appointment of Bishop Williams, Bishop Mason stated that Bishop R. F. Williams would ultimately be accountable to him. Bishop Mason further stated that he hoped that all would work with Bishop Williams.

14 THE WHOLETRUTH

Elder (later Bishop) Ulysses E. Miller received the appointment as the "superintendent of construction," managing the daily operations of the building project. Sisters (later Mothers) Deborah Mason Patterson and Elsie Washington Mason served as the financial secretaries. W. H. Taylor, a COGIC elder and one of an elite cohort of African American architects, drew up the architectural plans for Mason Temple, drawing inspiration from Bishop Mason's vision of the new facility, as well as the Art Moderne style and

as approval of the United States federal government. The military needs of World War II for steel and other materials delayed all non-essential building projects, including Mason Temple. Prior to the government's release of steel for civilian use within phases, the Church of God in Christ stood in 16th place for being allotted steel to purchase. Lobbying efforts by black and white clergy of COGIC, such as Bishop R. F. Williams and Elder James Logan Delk respectively, coupled with Bishop Mason's influential name,

Women's Department, the treasurer, registration, postal mail, information, a physician, and a first aid and emergency ward; a general office for departments was designated. A bishop chamber, two industrial kitchens, four concession areas, nursery, beauty salon, barber salon, shoe shine parlor, and lavatories with showers occupied different spaces within the complex. In addition to these areas, Mason Temple included the General Assembly hall and dining hall which seated 1,000 and 800 people in their respective spaces. The



design. One of the architectural aims was for Mason Temple to be erected as "a modern building for the church with an outlook to the future."

A legend during its time for its seating capacity of 7,500, African American ownership, and the fact that its completion occurred during the last weeks of World War II, Mason Temple required the financial support of the denomination's leadership and membership, as well

proved persuasive, according to Bishop R. F. Williams. When the day arrived for the first allotment of steel, COGIC had jumped from being slotted in 16th place to first place "in line for steel," according to a quoted government official. The saints gave God all glory and praise for such a great feat.

As a sanctuary and office building complex, Mason Temple hailed as a multi-faceted structure. There were 24 offices, including offices for the senior bishop, the main sanctuary seated more than 5,000. A baptistry, pulpit, choir stand, and main floor constituted the sanctuary which was graced with a sturdy balcony in the back. The original seats of Mason Temple were built in Grand Rapids, Michigan by the American Seating Company; this was the company's "first post-war" production. A neon front sign was donated by the Women's Department, and a neon cross was given by the children's auxiliary, the Sunshine Band.

# Mason Temple cost nearly \$240,000 to build in 1945 dollars, which is equivalent in purchasing power to about \$3,420,000 today, nearly 75 years later.

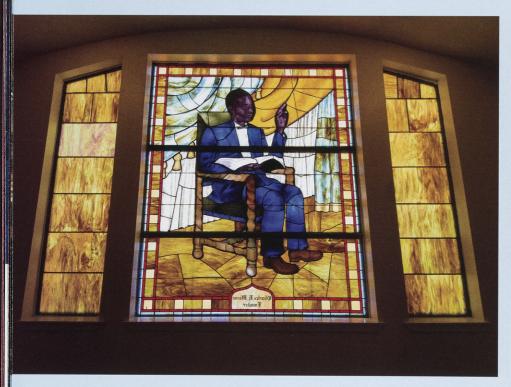
According to one contemporary, twelve windows graced each of the two sides of the front entrance with "the windows representing the 12 Tribes of Israel and the 12 Apostles."

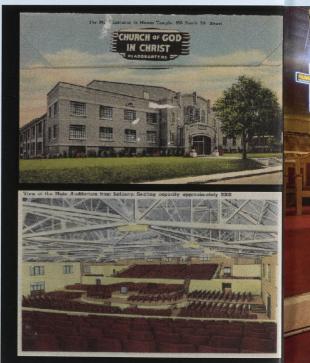
Mason Temple cost nearly \$240,000 to build in 1945 dollars, which is equivalent in purchasing power to about \$3,420,000 today, nearly 75 years later. It was a major financial commitment on

indelible stamp on the future generation." The founding general supervisor of the Women's Department, Mother Lizzie Robinson, along with Bishop Mason, composed hand-written congratulatory letters that were published and circulated. According to Bishop R.F. Williams, "This Temple stands for the unity of the saints, the preaching of the Gospel, and a memorial landmark to the memo-

of Bishop Mason to be entombed in a marble crypt in an alcove off the main lobby right outside the sanctuary, but inside the walls of Temple. The request was granted.

Mason Temple was the site of the Holy Convocation from 1945 to 1970 when Official Day was moved to the Mid-South Coliseum in Memphis. Prior to Bishop Mason's demise in 1961, Mason Temple was already unable





the part of the leadership and laity of the church. It ranked among the first denominational headquarter owned by an historic Black Christian denomination in the United States.

The editor of the *The Whole Truth* during 1945, Sister Ella V. Dancy-Sparks, designated the new edifice as "Mason's dream." The construction superintendent, Elder Miller, recognized Mason Temple as Bishop Mason's "latest achievement," which would "leave an

ry of his highness, our honorable chief, Bishop C. H. Mason and his co-workers."

Bishop Mason was able to minister from the pulpit and altar of Mason Temple for 16 years. During the lifetime of Bishop Mason, worship services of the Holy Convocation were broadcasted via live radio, and heard across North America. When he died in 1961 at the age of 97, the denomination requested that the city of Memphis allow the body

to accommodate all of the annual convocation delegates. In the early years of Mason Temple, Bishop Mason assigned Bishop R. F. Williams to preach the Official Day sermon in his place to the packed crowd inside the Temple while he preached and ministered to the vast crowds standing outside of the Temple.

n addition to the annual Holy Convocation, revivals and gospel concerts were held at in the white meed Will and I left I heal alon of the from Beed Smith Was and

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Mason Temple, as well as prayer in the Prayer Chapel. Black and white evangelists conducted these meetings, such as Utah Smith and William Freeman. Conversions and healings occurred, and crutches left behind by those who were healed of walking challenges hung along the walls in the first decades of the Temple. Gospel singers from Mahalia Jackson, Charles Beck, Arizona Dranes, Utah Smith, Rosetta Tharpe, Ernestine Washington, Mattie Moss Clark, and many renowned gospel choirs praised God in song.

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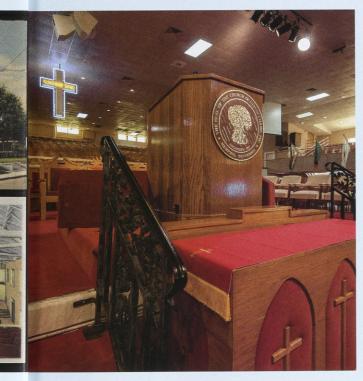
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during Bishop Mason's lifetime. Martin Luther King, Jr. actually spoke twice at rallies in Mason Temple. On July 31, 1959, he addressed a voting rally and in 1968, he delivered his last speech, "I've Been to the Mountaintop," on April 3, 1968 - the night prior to his assassination and untimely demise.

Mason Temple is currently a world-renowned destination. It is a site on the Civil Rights Tour in Memphis. The significance of Mason Temple extends far beyond the history of the city of Memphis.



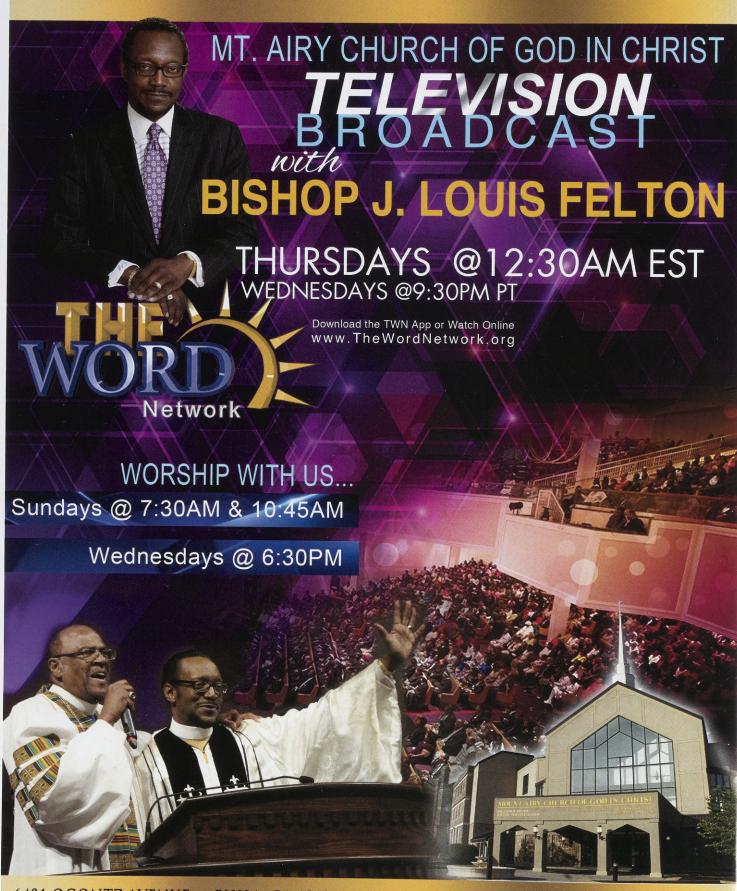




Mason Temple held civil rights rallies as well. Civil rights activists spoke from the Temple's podium, such as Paul Robeson, Roy Wilkins of the NAACP, and Martin Luther King, Jr. of SCLC.

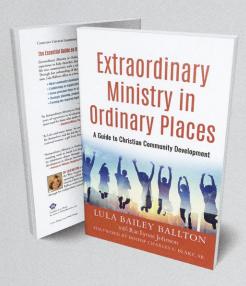
Protest rallies, voting campaigns, and sanitation strike rallies occurred in Mason Temple even Historians and journalists note the significance of this edifice within the history of the Church of God in Christ, Martin Luther King, Jr., the Civil Rights Movement, the Black Church, Pentecostal Studies, and World Christianity. Futurists will continue to envision how Mason Temple and the Church of God in Christ, in faithfulness to the Gospel, will be a "church with an outlook to the future"—an outlook to God's future. **TWT** 

Bishop David D. Daniels III, Ph.D. chairs the Board of Education for Church of God in Christ. In 1987, he joined the faculty of McCormick Theological Seminary where he serves as the Henry Winters Luce Professor of World Christianity. His research areas includes the COGIC history, Global Pentecostalism, and African Christians in 16th Century Europe.



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—Bishop Charles E. Blake Sr.



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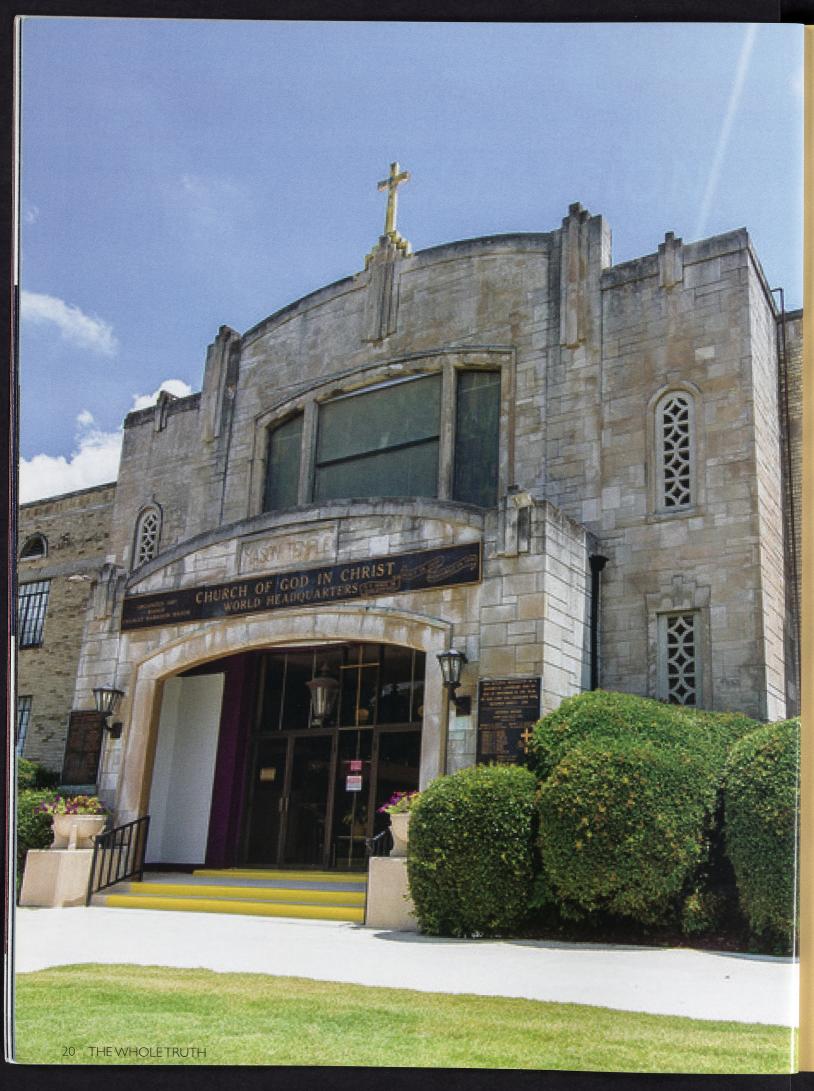
**Dr. Lula Bailey Ballton** is Executive Director of Community and Economic Development, Church of God in Christ, Inc. She is CEO emeritus, co-founder, and former president of the West Angeles Community Development Corporation (WACDC), operating within the greater ministry of the West Angeles Church of God In Christ under the pastorate of Bishop Charles E. Blake, Sr.

Dr. Ballton assists faith-based institutions, churches, CDCs, and nonprofits through her independent consultancy firm, Lula Ballton and Associates.





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# ATemple of Legacy By Daniele Cooper

hen we are not exposed to the experiences that lie behind history we lack the insight of beauty behind the growth. Founded in 1907, the Church of God in Christ became the first legally chartered Pentecostal body incorporated in the United States. Led by our blessed leader and founder, Bishop Charles H. Mason, who lived a life of obedience to the Word of the Lord. Through obedience, Mason was able to create edifices that have impacted the lives of millions spiritually, culturally, and politically.

Purchased in 1924 by Bishop Mason, the original Mason backing of individuals from different ethnicities, the COGIC Women's Department, politicians, and church leaders - Mason Temple was built, leaving the church with no debt. Located at 958 S. Fifth Street, Mason Temple was a now a brick and stone building that was known as the largest black-owned auditorium in the nation. Upon completion, Mason Temple was able to seat five thousand people on its main level, twenty-five hundred people in the horseshoe-shaped balcony, and a choir stand that held seven hundred and fifty seats. The Temple was also equipped with two kitchens, a large cafeteria that would accompany

does a worship tabernacle impact a community from a spiritual and social equality standpoint. In this case, Mason Temple was a major force during the Civil Rights Movement. Crossing state lines, civil rights and political leaders used the platform of Mason Temple to reach out to the community, in hopes of building respect through common ground.

Notably, Martin Luther King, Jr. used Mason Temple as a platform to speak to the community in the 1950s, and again to share the acclaimed "Mountain Top" speech on April 3, 1968- (the day before his assassination).

Mason Temple is still a place of faith-building, hope, and progress. Its legacy has spiritually, politically, and racially impacted the community far and wide, and we shall soon celebrate!

Temple was a wood-framed tabernacle in Memphis, Tennessee. The tabernacle held over 3,000 people and was a focus of the church until it burned down in 1936. Facilities in the city were inaccessible for the church to host the annual convocation, so Bishop Mason used and renovated his local church to meet the needs of the delegates/members during convocations. With the moves Mason made on behalf of the Church of God in Christ during late 1930, building wise, the church was given a respectable stature within the city.

In 1945, with the financial

over five hundred people at a time, medical rooms, a barber and hair salon, and a post office.

The building of Mason
Temple became more than a gathering place for the Church of God
In Christ members, but a safe place
for an array of people during a time
of racial divide and financial disparity.

Think of the spiritual awakenings that transpired during services held within Mason Temple, along with building up the spirit man, Mason Temple became a meeting place for leaders seeking a path to find equality. Not often

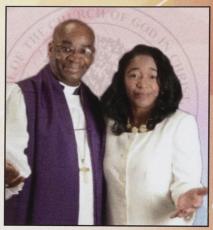
2020 will mark 75 years of the building that holds historical legacy, as well as the earthly body of Bishop Charles H. Mason, entombed in a marble crypt. Mason Temple is still a place of faith-building, hope, and progress. Its legacy has spiritually, politically, and racially impacted the community far and wide, and we shall soon celebrate! **TWT** 

Daniele Cooper is a member of Greater Pentecostal COGIC in Wichita, KS under the leadership of Pastor Herman and First Lady Anadina Hicks. Missouri Gateway Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction

## CONGRATULATIONS



**Supervisor Mother Flora Cooper** 



Bishop Melvin J. Smith, Prelate Lady Jacqueline Smith



**Kalynn Clinton** 



We are so proud and excited to see how God is using you both. We appreciate your service and hard work. You have our love and support.



**Keren Clinton** 



President of Evangelism, Pastor Keith Clinton Missionary, First Lady Kimberly Clinton

Missouri Gateway Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction



August 12, 2019

Presiding Bishop Charles Blake and First Lady Mae Blake,

God is still performing MIRACLES!!!
I am a living MIRACLE by the GRACE of GOD!!!

The Whole Truth

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And they overcame him by the

And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony, and they loved not their lives unto the death.

—Revelation 12:11

In 2010, I suffered a heart attack. The doctors discovered that the heart attack left my left ventricle damaged. The doctors also discovered that my heart was now functioning at 13% heart rate and that I was, NEAR DEATH!

I've experienced many years and days in the hospital because my heart was pumping at a very low percentage. My Cardiologist said, in 2011, my ejection fraction was very low and my heart rate was still pumping at 13%. In 2012, doctors implanted a Defibrillator in my heart and continued prescribing multiple medications for me to take daily. So from 2012 to 2016, there was little to no improvement to my heart even after the implant. So, Cedar Sinai Cardiology department felt that I was a candidate for a heart transplant and I should be placed on

the National Heart Transplant List. Cedar Sinai begin walking me through all the necessary procedures of testing's to become a candidate for the National Heart Transplant List. So, in 2016, I was placed on the National Heart Transplant List.

It's been a few years now since I've been on the heart transplant list and in 2018 I begin to show signs of improvement from taking my medications daily. Recently I received good news from my Cardiologist Dr. J. Neyer, I was told that my heart had improved and it's pumping at a high percentage of 45 to 50%. So, Dr. Neyer, informed the Committee at Cedar Sinai Medical Center of the good news and Cedar Sinai notified the National Heart Transplant List Foundation to remove my name from the list because I was no longer to

be considered a candidate for a heart transplant because my heart had improved.

So, Bishop and First Lady Blake, I just wanted to let you know that GOD is still in the MIRACLE working business. This good news from my Cardiologist could only be the work of God Almighty. God has restored my heart to a point where I've been removed from the National Heart Transplant List. I believe Isaiah 53:5 tells me that by HIS STRIPES, I AM HEALED! AND IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST, I receive my healing!!! Oh, the swift and mighty work of God to show believers and those who trust in him what he can and will do. I am SO GRATEFUL and FAITHFUL to GOD that he's never forsaken me through illness, test and trials. This is my TESTIMONY of FAITH. He always comes through!!!

In God's Amazing Love,
Sister Viola Jackson Taylor

Author

Au

# A Celebration of HERITAGE



The Saints Came Home to Lexington, Mississippi September 11, 2019 to Celebrate Bishop Charles Harrison Mason's Birthday.

The delegation of visitors was led by Bishop Charles Edward Blake, Sr., Presiding Bishop of the Church of God in Christ, Bishop Timothy Titus Scott of Northern Mississippi, Bishop Robert Rudolph of Arkansas, Bishop Jerry Taylor and Bishop Linwood Dillard of Tennessee, just to name a few. The local participants in the celebration included Lexington's own, Mayer Robin McCrory, Attorney Don Barrett of the Barrett Law Group of Lexington, and many pastors, church and community members.

Bishop Matthews





guided the planning for the activities and was assisted by two local coordinators, Elder Clinton Cobbins former Mayor of Lexington and pastor of Life Changing Ministries Church of God in Christ in Pickens, MS, and Dr. Percy Louis Washington —pastor of the Historic Sweet Canaan Church of God in Christ, the second oldest COGIC in the world, located outside of Lexington. Other local persons who helped to make this a successful celebration included Superintendent William Dean - pastor of St. Paul, "the Mother Church"; Elder Willie

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Hodges - pastor of Guiding Light Church of God in Christ; Ms. Carroll Stone, Ms. Teresa Brown, Ms. Dorothy Randle, Ms. Shintri Hathorn, and Mr. Leroy Riley.

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Many Saints and other visitors toured St. Paul COGIC, the Historic Sweet Canaan COGIC, and a jail cell in Historic Holmes County Courthouse where Bishop Mason was once jailed. On Saints campus, a college fair, job fair and health fair were held. Presiding Bishop Charles E. Blake, Sr. donated funds to feed over 600 students on the campus for the Heritage Celebration. Attorney Barrett donated funds to help with the expenses for the bands, and Bishop Matthews provided

a tent as covering for the variety of activities and entertainment for the many guests.

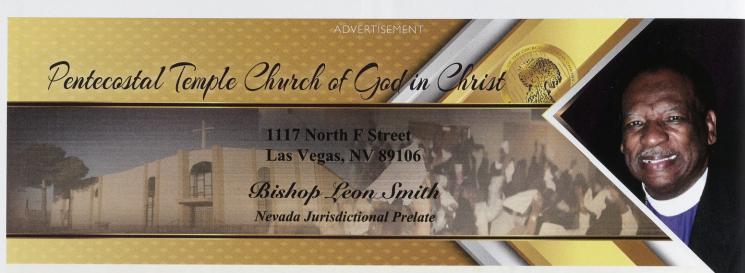
The Heritage Celebration climaxed with a grand parade through downtown Lexington. Some of the participants in the parade included the Alcorn State University Band, Mississippi Valley State University Band, and the University of Mississippi (Ole Miss) Band. The high school bands included Velma Jackson High School and Holmes County

Central High School. Floats in the parade were from the Mississippi and Louisiana jurisdictions. It has been estimated that thousands of people lined the streets of Lexington for the parade.

Preparations for the 2020 Heritage Celebration are already underway by the planning committee in Lexington. The committee welcomes financial support to help other bands from various states participate in next year's celebration. Please make plans to attend

> the Bishop Charles Harrison Mason Heritage Celebration on September 9, 2020, and help us to make the event "BIGGER AND BETTER" in Lexington!







It is with much love and appreciation that the members of Pentecostal Temple Church of God in Christ, Las Vegas, Nevada recognizes and honors Sister Linda Kaye Chapman. She has served faithfully at the church in multiple capacities and positions.

Upon attending Tuskegee University, Linda was employed as a babysitter in effort to assist in defraying the cost of books and tuition. Linda's total commitment and devotion lead her to return every summer to care for her mother. Linda totally repaid her parents for all monies invested in her education.

Linda received Christ at an early age and received the Holy Ghost. She is the oldest of four children. Linda paused her college education to care for her mother who passed at the age of 43. She became caretaker to her only brother and assisted him with his college education. With much sorrow, she lost him at age 25. Assuming the role of caretaker was Linda's gift as she raced to the rescue to assist her younger sister to receive her masters' degree while caring for her two nephews. Further, Linda helped another sister receive her Licensed Practical Nursing degree by caring for her daughter. This sister sadly passed away at age 32.

Sister Linda's employment history reflects her status as a Technical training Supervisor in Telecommunications at the Central Telephone Company for five and a half years. Linda made history as she was the only African American to serve in a supervisory capacity during that time frame. Years later she was employed by MGM Resort, Bally's Hotel and the Paris Resort hotel for 31 years. As a professional Telecommunication Trainer, her skill set was utilized on numerous occasions. Linda's ability to impact the lives of so many people is well documented as she was named employee of the month from among 6,200 employees. This phenomenal recognition came after she produced a sixty-page training manual for the Business Telecommunications Department.

On August 16, 1969 Linda Kaye McBride was united in holy matrimony to James Chapman. This union was blessed with two children: one daughter and a son.

In recognition of Sister Linda's unwavering service to the church, Bishop Smith recently stated "Sister Linda has most likely been the most valuable and indispensable staff member at Pentecostal Temple Church. Sister Linda has done many astronomical fundraisers to assist the church as well as her pastors. She worked with Bishop E. N. Webb memorial Scholarship program from 1991 until 2019, and the Administrative Assistant at Pentecostal Temple Child Development Center from 2001 until 2017. The Church of God in Christ will continue to be blessed as we recognize excellence.

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Juanita Williams Faulkner (M.A., Early Childhood Education, Columbia University, NY; M.A., Educational Administration, Rider University, NJ) is a thirdgeneration member of the Church of God in Christ.

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Bishop L.F. Thurston, Chairman General Assembly COGIC, Inc.

It Is Written:
Minutes of the General Assembly
Church of God in Christ
Held at Memphis Tennessee
1919 — 1932



Juanita Williams Faulkner, MA and Raynard D. Smith, Ph.D., editors

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It Is Written: Minutes of the General Assembly Church of God in Christ Held at Memphis Tennessee, 1919-1932

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Dr. Raynard D. Smith (Ph.D., Psychology and Religion, Drew University, N.J.) is Associate Professor of Pastoral Care/Pastoral Theology at New Brunswick Theological Seminary in New Brunswick, N.J. He is an ordained elder in the Church of God in Christ.



1972



2020

## Charles H. Mason Theological Seminary

### GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY PREVIEW

By Minister Reginald Boswell



#### **EQUIPPED TO SERVE**

The Charles H. Mason Theological Seminary prepares men and women to serve in various capacities in ministry. Instruction in biblically-based doctrine to carry out effective ministry in both traditional and non-traditional parish settings is a major goal. Four major branches of focus include: (I) Biblical Studies and Languages; (II) Philosophy, Theology,

Ethics, and History; (III) Persons, Society, and Culture; and (IV) the Church and its Ministries. Students receive instruction and training from current leaders and officials of the Church of God in Christ on major social, historical, theological, and ethical issues that affect the Christian community, in general, and the Church of God in Christ in particular. This type of instruction takes





the form of forums, lectures, presentations, and other methods of exposure made possible by the introduction of technology in the classroom.

What is more, the Seminary sponsors conferences, symposia, dialogues, and other types of formal meetings, which examine specific issues in the life of the Church of God in Christ and Pentecostal studies. Alumni include jurisdictional bishops, pastors, and superintendents in COGIC; chaplains in the Armed Forces, hospitals, and prisons. Former graduates of the Seminary serve on the COGIC National Trustee Board and the Judiciary Board, including its present chairman. Additionally, many graduates are authors, conference speakers, musicians, public school teachers, and chaplains within the military, in hospitals, hospice centers, and in other institutions. Graduates are among faculty at respected colleges and universities across the United States.

#### **GENESIS**

The idea of COGIC having a school for the training of its clergy and laity for ministry began to take shape in 1965 when Senior Bishop Ozro Thurston Jones was invited by ITC president, Dr. Harry V. Richardson, to convene with a special committee. The purpose of this assembly was to discuss the possibility of COGIC organizing a seminary and becoming an affiliate of ITC. In 1968, the COGIC General Assembly approved a new constitution, which authorized a new governance infrastructure. Continuing the efforts to start the seminary, a planning committee was formed, headed by Bishop D. A. Burton, General Secretary of the Church, and Bishop Roy L. H. Winbush, President of the Publishing House. Plans were finalized for organizing the Seminary and facilitating its entrance into ITC. In April 1970, the General Assembly of the Church of God in Christ authorized









the Charles H. Mason Theological Seminary to become a constituent seminary of ITC. The doors were opened in September 1970 and the first class graduated in 1972. The graduates were Dorothy Webster, Calvin D. Kinsey, Isaac Richmond, and John P. Ruth.

Since its inception, the Charles H. Mason Theological Seminary has graduated forty-seven classes. The founding chairman of the Board of Trustees was Bishop Charles E. Blake, Sr. (1970-1974). Bishop Roy L.H. Winbush served as chairman from (1974-2014). Former graduate Bishop David Allen Hall, Sr, became the chairman of the Board in 2014. The first president/dean was Dr. Leonard Lovett (1970-1974). Following Lovett, Dr. Oliver J. Haney, Jr., served as president/dean (1974-2004). Dr. Arthur F. Mosley served as the interim president/dean (2002-2005) before the current president/dean and former graduate, Dr. Harold Bennett, a world class scholar, has served since 2005.

The Charles H. Mason Theological Seminary in Atlanta, GA is the official school for religious studies and graduate theological education in the Church of God in Christ. The seminary will celebrate its 50th Anniversary February 24-27, 2020. Recognized as a template for religious educational institutions, it is the oldest, fully-accredited Pentecostal Seminary in America. It is among other prestigious institutions making up the sum of the Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC) campus in Atlanta, which include: (1) Turner Theological Seminary (African Methodist Episcopal Church); (2) Gammon Theological Seminary (United Methodist Church); (3) Phillips School of Theology (Christian Methodist Episcopal Church); (4) Morehouse School of Religion (Baptist); and (5) Richardson Ecumenical Fellowship (Nondenominational). In close proximity to this consortium on the campus is a Lutheran Center, the seventh member present.

The fruits of a theological education at the Charles H. Mason Theological Seminary are immeasurable, preparing many for the challenge of ministry. **TWT** 



For more information about the 50th anniversary celebration, the residential or online degree program, please visit the "How We Serve" menu at COGIC.org or masonseminaryitc.org. You may also email the Seminary at hbennett@itc.edu or dcwilson@itc.edu, or at 404-527-7775 (phone).

# Congratulations Jennifer Hudson

STCC Administrator



"She is clothed with strength and dignity, and she laughs without fear of the future."

Troverbs 31:25

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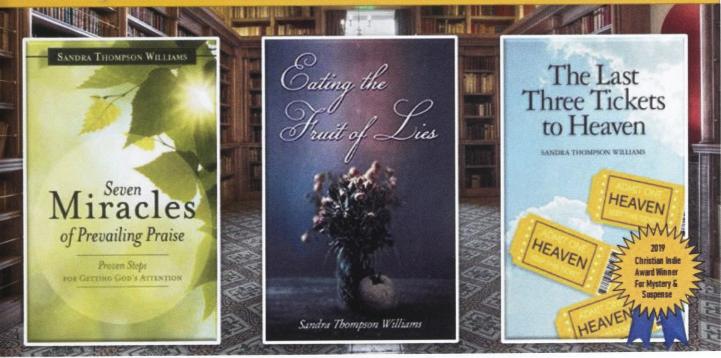
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UNDER UNDER CALON PRESENTATION

# The WHOLE TRUTH Church of God in Christ

By TWT Staff

The Whole Truth magazine is excited to feature 40 young, dynamic leaders who have been setting the bar sky high with praying, praising, learning, volunteering, texting and tweeting their way to success in business, church and community. These 40 individuals, all under the age of forty, have not been idle in their endeavors to make a mark in this world for the call of Christ.

TWT is extremely proud to recognize such a fine cohort of young saints who represent their families, communities, the Church of God in Christ, and all of Christendom so very well. We salute the 2019 "40 Under 40" award recipients for their vast accomplishments and we are delighted to acknowledge their contributions through this unique award mechanism.

### SARAH ANTHONY - Lansing, Michigan



State Rep. Sarah Anthony is serving her first full term representing the 68th House District, which encompasses part of the city of Lansing and Lansing Township. She currently serves as the Democratic Caucus Chair for the 2019-2020 session. In November 2018, Anthony was sworn into her partial term, making her the first African American woman to serve in this capacity in Lansing's history. Anthony was born and raised in Lansing and graduated from Everett High School on Lansing's south side. Following graduation, she attended Central Michigan University, earning a Bachelor of Science Political Science and Legal Studies. Rep. Anthony also earned a Master of Public Administration from Western Michigan University and was later named a fellow of the University of Michigan's New Leadership Academy. After graduation, she immediately returned to Lansing to work for former State Rep. Joan Bauer where she served as a Legislative Assistant. She worked closely with Lansing residents

to streamline government services and with neighborhoods to connect them to vital improvement services and funds. In 2010 Anthony began an eight-year service as Deputy Director with the Michigan College Access Network. In 2012, Lansing residents elected her to the Ingham County Board of Commissioners, making her the youngest African American woman to serve in this capacity in the United States. During her time as a commissioner, Anthony served in many leadership positions, including chairing the Democratic Caucus and Finance Committee, as well as serving as Chair and Vice Chair of the board. She has been a fearless leader for health care access, social justice, services for senior citizens and working families. Anthony has worked every day to help solve problems for Lansing's residents. She understands the challenges that so many small businesses, families and residents in our district face on a day-to-day basis. She is dedicated to representing their voice in government. Anthony's favorite quote is: "If they don't give you a seat at the table, bring a folding chair." -Shirley Chisholm

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### KRYSTAL M. BRACY - Durham, North Carolina

Evangelist Krystal Bracy is entering her senior year as a full-time student at Duke University, pursuing a Master of Divinity with concentrations in Homiletics and African American Studies. She is a recipient of Duke University's prestigious Julian Abele Award, which honors the significant achievements of Black community members and their allies at Duke. Krystal was named "Divinity School Student of the Year" (April 2019) and recognized for "possessing the traditional markers of what we exalt as the tenets of

a great leader." The path to getting the recognitions as a leader has been arduous for Evangelist Bracy. Understanding her path and testimony, you understand why she's one of COGIC's tremendous young leaders. Krystal Bracy is fifth generation Church of God in Christ. Her family's experience is not like most young leaders as she can directly trace her lineage to COGIC's founding. Born into the Landfair family of Holmes County, MS, her family was one of the few converts to COGIC under Bishop Mason in Lexington, MS in the early 20th century. Her great-grandmother led the family to join St. Paul COGIC in Lexington - the mother

church for our beloved denomination. Krystal grew up in Oakland, CA as a product of NorCal Metropolitan jurisdiction, under 2nd Assistant Presiding Bishop Jerry W. Macklin. While growing up in NorCal, Krystal served in several capacities as a member of Dancey Memorial Church of God in Christ, founded by her grandparents. Her father, Supt Joe Nobles, serves as Bishop Macklin's 1st Administrative Assistant and her mother, Lady Joetta Nobles serves as Chief-of-Staff for the NorCal Jurisdiction Women's Department. Krystal grew up seeing the history of COGIC in California as she traveled with her grandmother and 3rd International Supervisor of Women, Mother Mattie Mc-Glothen. It's under their combined tutelage and lessons being passed down from Dr. Arenia Mallory that Krystal grew an appreciation for COGIC and its tremendous history to transform lives. Krystal attended UC Berkeley and started

her degree in Political Science. During a rough season of education, Evangelist Bracy discontinued her education due to financial constraints. She later returned to UC Berkeley fulltime to complete her degree after a ten-year break from education endeavors. After a successful tenure at Berkeley, Krystal enrolled at Duke Divinity School and was elected by her peers to represent them for two consecutive years as Black Seminarians Union president (2018-2020). Her meritorious service to the students of

Duke Divinity includes acquiring a dedicated lounge and office space for Black students, finding donations in order to fully furnish the space, securing donor gifts of \$10K per year that contributes to community engagement for Black students and ministerial formation, enhancing Office of Black Church Studies programming as well as curriculum changes that interest students of color, and working to obtain a brand new certificate program for students who excel in preaching. Krystal's remarkable leadership is noticed among faculty and administration who often seek her advice and counseling regarding major decisions that will affect Black students. Prior to her becoming the leader of

the Black Seminarians Union, the student group had never received alumni donations or created a shared space for expression. While maintaining an above-average GPA, Krystal has developed youth mentorship programming that holistically impacts young women and empowers them to academically achieve and become well-informed, productive citizens of society. Her future educational plans include law school. Her studies have taken her extensively throughout Western Europe where she examined the individual systems of government in Britain, Belgium, the Netherlands and France and the role these countries played in world politics (2015); and to Lima, Cuzco, and Machu Picchu, Perú to explore the ministry of reconciliation and key theological convictions and practices that orient a series of journeys in which Christians walk from lament through liberation toward God's new creation (2019).



# KAREN E. BURKS – Metairie, Louisiana

It is with great pride and pleasure that I write this letter of recommendation and recognition on behalf of an extraordinary leader, Ms. Karen Burks - an exceptional candidate for The Whole Truth's "40 under 40" recognition. I have had the pleasure of knowing Karen for several years and truly admire her passion to empower others, her leadership skills and consistent drive to impact her community and peers. Karen uses her background in workforce and economic

development and entrepreneurship to change lives through personal empowerment. She has worked to build the capacity of individuals and businesses, simply to increase their earning capacities and profitability. Karen Elizabeth Burks began her career in the financial institution industry serving over ten years in that capacity. She joined the credit union movement, where she served in career roles such as a teller, loan officer, collector, and branch manager. While serving in the banking industry, Karen noticed a barrier of basic financial management skills

that customers faced. She therefore established Burks Management Firm LLC where she serves as founder and financial management consultant, aiding her clients with tools to successfully meet their financial recovery through financial education, career and college readiness. Burks Management Firm was named the 2018 recipient of New Orleans City Business Money Makers. Karen is currently employed by the Urban League of Louisiana as the Career and Workforce Development Trainer. In this role she serves individuals by facilitating professional development and work readiness training. Karen also serves as a volunteer business mentor and co-chair at SCORE New Orleans, where she assists small business owners in the areas of business operations,

financial management, budgets, business planning and development. Academically, Karen earned an Associates of Applied Science in Business Technology from Baton Rouge Community College; a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration in Management from Southeastern Louisiana University; a Master of Arts in Management from the University of Redlands in Redlands, California; and a certification in Personal Finance from Teachers College Columbia University,

in New York, NY. Karen maintains membership in several social, civic. and religious organizations in her community. She is the vice chairlady of Junior Achievement Young Professionals Board 2018-2019; a member of Young Leadership Council, Urban League of Louisiana Young Professionals, and National Black MBA; SCORE New Orleans vice chair (2019-2020); and United Christian Faith Ministries C.O.G.I.C. Economic Empowerment Department and Finance Team. Beyond being a successful businesswoman, Karen has demonstrated a true

commitment to service. Her consistent support of empowering others has kept top of mind the notion to think globally and act locally. Her unwavering work in the community to build families through economic education and assisting financially to open over 40 youth savings accounts for high school students, for example is quite impressive. Karen is the type of person who will push others around her to reach higher heights and leave an indelible mark. Karen is the leadership for tomorrow that we desperately need today! She is a young, talented woman who is dedicated, resilient, self-starting, and willing to go the extra mile to learn about how to support her values and community.





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### KORIE L. CHRISTIAN-MORELAND

#### - Rochester, Pennsylvania

Korie L. Christian-Moreland is a mentor, friend and ambassador. The daughter of Cornell Johnson and Maureen Christian, Korie was born on December 23, 1990, taken from the hospital by Children and Youth Services, and placed in a foster home. She was moved from family to family in the system until she connected with

her aunt, Sandra Johnson, who raised her from her formative years until adulthood. Through many trials and trouble, Korie made it through the rough patches of life, matriculating through school and eventually receiving a Bachelor of Science in Social Services from Penn State University. Korie is currently a case worker of Diverse Care Management in the greater Pittsburgh/Allegheny County area where she advocates and mentors many youth, especially young women ages 10-21. Even when on vacation or at home with family, she graciously receives calls from youth who are in foster homes, group homes, or even incarcerated, and have no one else to talk to. They know that Karen will accept their calls and allow them to vent while she gives guidance and direction. Karen takes the time to personally to speak positivity in the lives of all of her clients, as well as family and friends. Married to the love of her life, Elder Marvin C. Moreland III,



together they work diligently in many aspects of ministry. Korie is a member of Deliverance Temple Ministries Church of God in Christ under the leadership of her father in law, Pastor Marvin C. Moreland. She walks alongside her husband as the Youth Director of Deliverance Temple and is co-coordinator of the yearly "Turn Up for Jesus Community Day", where food, clothing, haircuts, gifts, bikes, back to school supplies, games and fun for over 300 families is provided in the Greater Aliquippa community. Korie also serves as Executive Assistant for her husband, who is president of their jurisdictional Youth Department (First Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of Western PA). Additionally, she is part of the Jurisdictional Adjutancy and serves as AIM Ambassador. Korie's life story was featured in the Pittsburgh Courier (February 2019), entitled "From then to Now," for her work as a county case worker for the youth of the greater Pittsburgh region. Korie has a passion for young people, especially young women who struggle with life's many issues. "She is energetic and strong, a hard worker" (Proverbs 31:17 NLT).

## KALYNN M. CLINTON - St. Louis, Missouri

Kalynn Marie Clinton is the eldest daughter of Pastor Keith and Lady Elect Kimberly Clinton, who serve as president of the Evangelism Department and president of the Education Department for the Missouri Gateway Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction (MGEJ). Kalynn gave her life to Christ at a young age and has been serving faithfully in ministry at Promise Land Christian Church where her father is pastor. Along with her four siblings, Kalynn was homeschooled, grades K-12. Upon graduating in 2016, she received a full-ride



scholarship to attend the University of Missouri Saint Louis and is currently a senior studying Supply Chain Management with a minor in Information Systems. As an engaged member of the UMSL community, she has been involved in various student organizations, including the Emerging Leaders Program and the Black Business Student Association. Upon graduating with her bachelor's degree in 2020, she plans to pursue a Masters in International Business and growing her entrepreneurial endeavors. Kalynn is passionate about ministry and service. At PLCC she serves as a praise and worship leader, a youth/children's ministry leader, an assistant Sunday school teacher, and an usher. She is also highly active in multiple capacities within her jurisdiction, including

the youth and music ministries. Kalynn regularly volunteers in her community and has partnered with organizations such as Food for the Hungry, Junior Achievement, and Campus Crusade for Christ. She has served as a mentor for youth and young adults in both official and unofficial roles. Since the age of five, Kalynn has honed her gifts in public speaking and communication and uses them to inspire her generation. In June 2019, she co-led a youth and young adult course for MGEJ's Sunday School conference. From 2016-2018, she was invited as a panelist for the UMSL Bridge Program's annual speaker series. She was also a guest speaker at the annual Martin Luther King and Black History Celebrations at SSM DePaul Hospital for several years. Currently, she co-leads Fuego, an extension of her church's youth ministry aimed at equipping the next generation of Kingdom leaders. Kalynn is a highly motivated young adult who is utilizing her gifts to serve and reach her community for the Kingdom of God.



### KEREN M. CLINTON - St. Louis, Missouri

Keren Marleatha Clinton is a seventeen-year-old recent graduate, servant of God, entrepreneur, and future business developer. She is the daughter of Pastor Keith and Lady Kimberly Clinton, who serve as president of the Evangelism Department and president of the Education Department for the Missouri Gateway Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction. In of Missouri Saint Louis and double major in Business with an emphasis in Marketing and Computer Technologies, along with a minor in Media Studies. Keren is a leader by nature with a compassionate and helpful character; she quickly becomes invested in any project that requires a creative

flair. She values faith, family, strong work ethics, and creativity. Keren values faith because "Without faith, it is impossible to please God." She values family because "The love of a family is life's greatest blessing." She values strong work ethics because "Opportunities are usually disguised by hard work." Finally, she values creativity because "Creativity reflects a person's ability to connect the seemingly unconnected." Overall, Keren's creativity, skills, and faith reinforce her character and passion for the construct of business. As the daughter of a successful entrepreneur, Clinton was heavily involved in the world of business from a young age. She was taught a plethora of valuable and transferable skills, including project management, marketing, financial data interpretation, resource management, communication, multimedia production, and networking. The world of business, finance, and entrepreneurship has become an integral part of her life. At the age of fifteen, Keren coupled all of the transferable skills she learned with her love for writing and helping others and started a Technical Writing Consultancy business. She states, "One of



the most valuable lessons my parents taught and exemplified to me is that you make a living by what you get, but you make a life by what you give." Keeping these words in mind, Clinton is on a fast track to becoming a business developer to help individuals successfully grow their businesses and give back to communities. Despite her many successes, Keren remains humble and credits all of her accomplishments to her heavenly father and creator. She has been an active participant in her church, Promise Land Christian Church, and the Missouri Gateway Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction. She has served in several capacities, including praise and worship leader, puppeteer, usher, choir member, motivational speaker, youth group leader, and assistant multimedia producer. Keren states, "In a world where teen suicide is at an all-time high, teen depression is rampant, and so many of my young peers are falling away, I cannot sit idly by and allow my generation to drop the torch and lose the war against the enemy and his forces. Instead, I must exemplify the very nature of God in every aspect of my life and let the world know there is a generation standing strong in faith and we will not be silenced by the wickedness of this world!" Clinton intends to use her faith, education, and business ventures to become an innovative change agent and bypass barriers of race, age, sex, religion, and nationality to win back her generation for the Kingdom of God.

## TEQUILA S. DORRIS – Joliet, Illinois

Opportunity knocked at birth when Tequilla Sha (Walls) Dorris was born on January 11, 1980. She is the proud daughter of Deacon Billy and Mother Rosie Walls, members of Freedom Temple Church in Chicago, Illinois, under the leadership of Bishop Cody Marshall. Since marriage, she has been a member of Prayer Tower Ministries Church of God In Christ in Joliet, Illinois. Currently serving under the leadership of



Pastor Warren C. Dorris Jr., Sis. Dorris has been actively working in the Hospitality Department, as a youth teacher, and as an events and fundraising coordinator. Sister Dorris has served as a Hospitality greeter on the first Sunday for the past two years. She also provides support for all other events when requested. She's been a Youth Ministry teacher for the past 11 years. During that time, she introduced a matriculation curriculum every child must reach in order to move to the next level of Bible studies. Also, in 2016 she was the Vacation Bible School coordinator for the entire church. In the near future, she will be introducing Apologetics. This application will help children learn how to defend their faith in our society. In 2014, she implemented a capital campaign called "May Day." This year-long fundraising event culminated on the first Sunday of May with a celebration in the form of a feast. The church raised over \$26,000. Because of this success, many debts

were retired. As an adult, she attended the University of Saint Francis in Joliet, Illinois and Joliet Junior College. She graduated with an AA degree from Joliet Junior College in 2016. Presently, she is employed as a Testing & Tutoring clerk at Joliet Junior College. Sis. Dorris has been married to Elder Demmond Dorris for 16 years. She is the proud mother of two beautiful daughters, Kennedy Alexis and Reagan Elizabeth. Together, Sis. Dorris and her husband have been able to manage their careers and faith-based initiatives, as well as maintain time for family friends.

## OTIS C. DUPREE - Bowie, Maryland

Otis C. Dupree is a phenomenal leader in the academic and religious arenas. God has uniquely gifted him to provide professional and spiritual guidance to diverse audiences to empower their lives. Otis Dupree is a native of Washington, DC and the proud son of Otis C. and Janet S. Dupree. In 2002, he graduated with honors from Prince George's County Public School (PGCPS) and immediately enrolled at Bowie State University (BSU) to pursue a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology and graduated in 2006. With a desire to continue, he enrolled in the Master of Arts program at BSU and studied Teaching, graduating in 2013. While attending BSU, he was an active member of the Gospel Choir, Student Government Association, Campus Ministries, Honors program, and maintained a 3.0 GPA. Otis is currently enrolled at Regent University pursuing his Doctoral degree in Education with a concentration in Educational Leadership. His vast experience as an educator has afforded him the opportunity to teach in various positions within the PGCPS since 2006, such as: elementary Reading, Social Studies, Foreign Language, Mathematics, Testing Coordinator, Instructional Lead Teacher, and Data Coach. Currently, he serves as the Academic Dean, and Assistant Principal at Drew Freeman Middle School in Suitland, Maryland. At the age of thirteen, Otis received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit at the Church of the Holy Trinity in Washington, DC while Dr. Rita Twiggs was ministering. During his tenure at Holy Trinity, he served faithfully as deacon. In 2002 after much prayer, he

received the blessing from Bishop Royce L. Woods to join Capital Temple Ministries C.O.G.I.C. under the leadership of Pastors Danny and Jayme McCrimmon. In August 2008, Otis was ordained an elder in the Lord's church during the Washington, DC Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction's Holy Convocation under the leadership of Bishop Neavelle A. Coles. Elder Otis' favorite scripture is Ecclesiastes 9:10 (KJV): "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might..." Literally, he has taken that scripture and embodied it within his spirit to serve in several capacities within the Church of God in Christ. His fortitude and tenacity to fulfill his purpose is fueled by his passion to see the Kingdom of God advance. Elder Otis has devoted his time, money and experience to enhance the work of the church locally by serving as the Assistant to the Pastor, Sunday School Field Representative, Worship Leader, Church and Pastor Anniversary Chair, Sunday School Teacher, and Bible Study Teacher. On a state level, he serves as the District Sunday School Superintendent for the Lion of Judah District, and has served as the Special Assistant to the late Elder James T. Linzy, the former State Sunday School Superintendent. Under the leadership of Bishop Tyrone Butler, and President Quinton Battle, he served as the Transportation Coordinator for the East Region Youth Department. Elder Otis is a dedicated member of the National Adjutancy and served as an Adjutant to Bishop Dewight Green in the Republic of

South Korea's Jurisdiction. Elder Otis is the epitome of Second Timothy 2:15 (KJV): "Study to shew thyself approved unto God...rightly dividing the word of truth." He's taken courses at Calvary Bible Institute and completed his Homiletics' course with Archbishop Alfred A. Owens, Jr. Elder Otis' ministry has expanded to many churches throughout Washington, DC, Delaware, New York, Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina to strengthen and ignite the believer's faith in God to fulfill their God-given purpose.



## JASON ERBY - Richardson, Texas

It is with great pleasure to nominate Minister Jason Erby for consideration for the 2019 "40 Under 40" award. Jason Erby is a trailblazer, both as a Levite and as a role model for young professionals. His passion for leadership, commitment to the professional development of others and focus on providing high-quality client service makes him a qualified candidate. In addition to being the CEO and founder of The



Studio School of Music, where he trains COGIC musicians, Jason demonstrates an extraordinary commitment to his jurisdiction (Texas Metropolitan, Bishop Reginald Williams) where he serves as Chief Levite. Jason founded The Studio School of Music in 2014 - a music school that provides music lessons (organ, piano, drums, bass guitar, lead guitar, vocal lessons, and studio production) at no cost to financially disadvantaged youth and young adults. His passion for bettering the lives of youth shines through every single day. The number of children in which he has been a mentor is vast. Jason often says that his goal is to take children, who come to us as receivers of services, and transform them through music, empowerment, education and action. He teaches them to be servants once they leave our doors. The youth and young adults look up to him, not only as a music teacher, but as a mentor. Jason truly becomes a member of their forever-family, even after they move on from The Studio School of

Music. He teaches the children the importance of being a minstrel, not just a musician. He's their support when they're down in life after they've moved into adulthood and need someone to talk to. Jason makes it his mission to find out what brings joy to each individual child. Jason is always willing to pitch-in for the good of the community, regardless of the mission. At a local Christian school, he works to establish music programs for underprivileged students and parents so they can obtain a quality music education in performing arts at no cost. I have been able to model my life by the example that Jason has set forth, and I aim to have the same impact on youth and young adults that I care for, just as Jason did with me. I contribute my success today to the mentorship I received from Jason as a youth. Please consider Jason for this prestigious award.

#### TIMOTHY J. FAIR - Auburn, Alabama

It gives me great pleasure to nominate Dr. Timothy Fair for The Whole Truth's "40 Under 40" award. Dr. Fair is a lifelong member of the Church of God in Christ and has represented our church well within higher education and beyond. It has blessed my life to witness Dr. Fair's rise and prominence within academia. At only 31 years of age, Dr. Fair holds an earned PhD in Public Policy and Administration and works at Auburn University—serving as the Assistant Vice President for Inclusion and Diversity. In this role, he is responsible for providing leadership to advancing the educational and research mission of the university's strategy related to matters of inclusion and diversity. He is also regarded as one of the emerging authorities on issues of inclusion, equity and diversity—traveling the country working with various organizations in consultative and advisory roles. He is a scholar with a broad understanding of the challenges that currently face higher education institutions, with particular expertise in the area of academic success and persistence strategies for men of color. Prior to his arrival at Auburn, Dr. Fair served as an Assistant Dean of



Students at Cornell University. While in this role, he was responsible for leading and supervising the work of the Multicultural Greek community at one of our nation's lvy League universities. Dr. Fair started his professional career as the Assistant Director of Diversity within the Holmes Cultural Diversity Center at Mississippi State University. While at MSU, he provided strategic thought leadership to institutional efforts related to multicultural learning, understanding, communication and the continued improvement of a welcoming institutional climate. What is most inspiring about Dr. Fair is that he has not forgotten his commitment to Christ, his call to holiness, or his ministerial assignment. Aside from his many professional roles, he is a an ordained elder in the Church of God in Christ, and currently serves in ministry at Philippians Church of God in Christ in Columbus, GA. He also holds a Bible study for youth and young adults in the Auburn Alabama area with the mission of calling a generation of believers to commune with Christ, connect with each other, and commit to the unique call on their life.

I came to know Dr. Fair during my time in undergrad when he served as campus pastor while working at Mississippi State University. In this role, he was responsible for worship services and pastoral care for college students at one of the most diverse higher education institutions within the southeast. Dr. Fair's life and ministry confirm that he is an outstanding leader, guided by a compass of holiness and pointed in a positive direction. He is an awesome inspiration to many individuals and proof that salvation and education are an unbeatable combination. Thank you for considering him for this opportunity as I am confident that he will continue to represent our church with distinction, humility and righteousness.



#### STEVEN FLUKER HILL - Lithonia, Georgia

Inarguably, Elder Steven Hill epitomizes the candidate that the purveyors of this award envision as a "COGIC Achiever." The tenets espoused by this great Church are not

incompatible with his own. Simply put. Elder Hill proclaims that he is saved, sanctified and filled with the Holy Ghost! He proudly, confidently shares his testimony - as a Gospel preacher - with the conviction that would make our founder and pioneers nod. Moreover, he willingly embraced the tenets of his Sunday School class, learned the lessons well, and was deliberate to typify Church of God in Christ achievement in his daily walk - in academia, throughout his corporate career and in the community (domestic and abroad). As a serves in many capacities: lead elder at jurisdictional secretary to Bishop Richard "Mr. Clean" White and the Bermuda lurisdiction; jurisdictional secretary to Bishop Joseph Mayo and the Dominican

Republic 2nd Jurisdiction; and Intercontinental Regional Youth President under the leadership of President Ben Stephens and Chairlady Joyce Rodgers. This outstanding recent appointment as the Foreign Regional Youth President, where he is now entrusted to represent our beloved denomination in, potentially, an excess of 80 countries. Additionally, Jurisdictional Youth President Hill created a database to capture Foreign Youth Presidents and Chairladies for the Intercontinental Region of the International Youth Department. Since his appointment, he has made several trips to different countries to help organize or set up youth departments. In 2018 and 2019, Elder Hill has taken over 150 delegates to London, UK for his official visit as Regional Youth President. In 2018, the International Region was featured in the November issue of The Whole Truth magazine to highlight the London trip for the youth convention. This year he hosted the IGNITE2K19 Regional Rally in the United Kingdom with Bishop Alvin Blake. This event had over 1,500 delegates from all over the country. This event was also featured and streamed live through COGIC.org live stream for our COGIC viewers. Plans are already under consideration for IGNITE2K20 which will be held in the Dominican Republic. Elder Hill and his team is also make

plans now to travel to France, South America, and Africa, to name a few. As an undergraduate student at our historic Albany State University and Morris Brown College, Steven

was precocious. Always ahead of his time and ever prepared for the task, Steven now a notable alumnus - faced the rigors of his academic program and committed to navigate unto completion. Born a leader, Steven charted the course for student leadership, possessing all of the essential tools for successful matriculation and the pursuit of excellence. Today, as a reputable, solid professional in the Commercial Insurance industry for over 10 years, Mr. Hill's accomplishments in the corporate environment have catapulted him into a position as representative for the voice of underrepresented colleagues in the workplace. Serving as an underwriter. underwriter associate and trainer have caused him to build relationships with many business partners throughout his career. While employees agree on Mr. Hill as their representative, senior management

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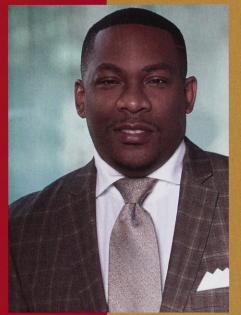
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cooperatively tapped Mr. Hill as their own superior candidate for this newly created position as Operations Lead for ZAAA (Zurich African American Alliance). This opportunity, among others, allows Mr. Hill to affect a positive experience, create a safe, diverse workplace, and assign accountability to every rung of organizational responsibility in a manner that benefits each employee in the organization. Elder Hill affirms others more highly than himself. On every front, this mover and shaker is selfless in his every priority and action. As a matter of practice, this candidate seeks to cure the human spirit and to augment achievement in every human endeavor. Mr. Hill evidences a seriousness of purpose and completes tasks specific to their achievement. Today, as a reputable, solid professional, businessman, mentor and respected minister of the Gospel, he is sought out by many. This candidate proves time and time again that he is indeed one of the strongest proponents for any mission that projects for a better future for the community, church, office and its citizens. When you follow him home to his corporate office, the boardroom, to church, a social event, or at play, Steven Hill lives a lifestyle of achievement. Therefore, it is without hesitation and with extreme delight that I recommend Elder Steven F. Hill as a 2019 recipient of the The Whole Truth's "40 Under 40" award.



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## SIDNEY L. FRYE II - Rochester, Minnesota

I am honored to nominate Sidney L. Frye II for The Whole Truth's "40 Under 40" award. A young man with a heart for God and a passion for serving others, Sidney L. Frye has demonstrated the qualities of hard work, loyalty to family, devotion to God and compassion toward others throughout his life. His ministry involvement, community service, professional accomplishments, and academic achievements complement the stellar community of past recipients and demonstrates his unique suitability as a candidate for this prestigious award. While enjoying numerous roles and responsibilities in his community and professionally, Sidney's ministry involvement is at the heart of what he does on a daily basis. From a young age, he has served with his parents Superintendent Sidney Frye, Sr. and Evangelist Evelyn Frye in ministry at Word of life Church of God in Christ in Rochester, Minnesota, where his roles and duties have included church percussionist, Sunday School teacher, multimedia team leader, youth pastor, ministerial team member, and church and ministry administrative team leader. Some of his accomplishments in this local arena include developing dynamic children and youth ministry programs and community outreach events, overseeing church media related projects such as social media engagement, website development and church livestream production. Sidney Frye was ordained as an elder in 2012 and remains committed to proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ through the preached Word. His prolific style and delivery combine extensive Bible knowledge and careful study with relatable anecdotes and illustrations that communicate the heart of God to listeners in a relevant, practical manner. Sidney Frye's ministry involvement also extends to the district level where he serves on the district conference leadership team and in the district Music Department. His jurisdictional ministry includes serving as the Minnesota Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction's Youth Department president for 6 years under the leadership of Bishop Fred W. Washington, where his passion for reaching this generation for Christ has translated into innovative programming and worship experiences for countless youth and young adults. Sidney Frye has recently been appointed as Regional Vice President for the Midwest Region Youth Department under the leadership of Supt. Micaiah Young. Additionally, he serves the International Youth Department under the leadership of Dr. Benjamin Stephens as co-chair of the COGIC International Youth Department Urban Initiatives' Fatherhood/Families Initiative. Sidney Frye's past accomplishments in the International Youth Department include being selected as the 2005 Young Man of Valor and serving as the

International Youth Advisory Council (IYAC) President from 2006 to 2008. Along with his ministry involvement, Sidney Frye has had the opportunity to serve the community of Rochester, Minnesota throughout his professional career. Since 2008, he has served as a Behavioral Counselor at Mayo Clinic, Juvenile Corrections officer for Olmsted County, Social Worker for Olmsted County, Child Welfare Program Supervisor for Family Service Rochester and currently as Program Supervisor of Project Hope, P.A.C.E., the Father's Project at Family Service Rochester in Olmsted County, and serves on the board of Minnesota Fathers & Families Network. Through these important roles, Sidney Frye has been afforded the opportunity to engage, empower, and uplift families and individuals navigating the cycles of poverty, crime, drug abuse, family dysfunction, and academic challenges. Sidney holds a Bachelor of Science in Counseling Psychology from Crossroads College (2006), as well as a Master of Divinity from Bethel University Theological Seminary (2013). He also earned a Master Certificate in Marriage and Family Therapy rom Bethel University (2018). While Sidney's ministry, professional, community, and educational backgrounds are extensive in scope, his greatest identity is found in Christ,



and he values the profound revelation he has received as a fourth-generation member of the Church of God in Christ. Among the numerous roles Sidney Frye assumes in ministry and professionally, the responsibilities he treasures the most are that of husband and father. He has been married to Mrs. Psalms T. Frye for over nine years, and they are the proud

parents of Sidney III, Aria, Simeon, Solomon, and Baby Frye (expected August 2019). Sidney Frye is also the founder of Sidney's Original Cheesecake, one-of-a-kind cheesecake dessert creations, and also blogs about the importance of dads and fatherhood at ttps://www.facebook.com/deepfryeddad.



#### KATRINA GARRETT - Alexandria, Virginia

Katrina Garrett may have already graduated from Saint Paul's College, but she's never left the classroom. A native of Emporia, VA, she accepted her call to ministry in May 2013. Since completely devoting her life to Christ in 2007, Katrina has developed a heartfelt passion to study



and share God's Word. Her fervor for education, coupled with the call to deliver God's Word, is an astounding lesson and example of what happens when passion and calling operate seamlessly for Kingdom work. Katrina credits her journey from Norfolk State University to Saint Paul's College as a pivotal moment that set her on a path to become an educator. Prior to her transition to the Northern Virginia and Maryland areas, Katrina faithfully served at Community Church of God in Christ in Drewryville, Virginia, under the leadership of Pastor Robert Joyner, Jr. and Evangelist Inell Joyner. She accredits much of her spiritual growth to the foundation she received while under their ministry. While attending Community COGIC, Katrina humbly served as president of the Youth Department, Adult Women and Junior Class Sunday School teacher, Deacon's Class facilitator, Food Bank Ministry, Youth and Young Adult Choir, and Liturgical Dance coordinator. She currently serves on the Ministerial Staff at Refreshing Spring Church of God in Christ. With a heartfelt passion for God's Word, Katrina

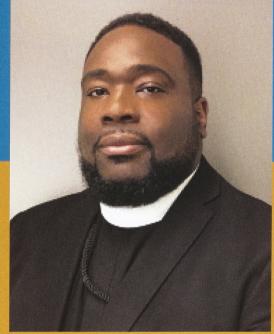
teaches the Adult Women's Sunday School class, and serves as the Study Program Coordinator for the Young Women's Christian Council. Occasionally, Katrina shares spiritual tidbits on social media via Monday Manna, a Facebook group she created to inspire, encourage and promote growth in the Word of God. Her skills also extend outside of the classroom -- on the court to be exact. Katrina plays basketball and before changing her major to Elementary Education, she majored in Physical Education and planned to become a basketball coach. She has also played the baritone and French horn at high school and collegiate levels. Katrina holds a Bachelor of Science in General Studies with an endorsement in Pre-K thru 6th, and a Master of Science in Instructional Technology and Design. Currently, Katrina teaches 3rd grade at Dogwood Elementary School in Reston, VA and is a strong advocate for identifying and nurturing advanced academic potential in students from traditionally underrepresented groups. She is working to further enhance this passion by obtaining an Advanced Academics endorsement with Fairfax County Public Schools. Katrina is the loving mother of one daughter, Jasmine. Her greatest desire is to empower and encourage intimate relationships with Christ and has a strong passion to see women grow into their greatest potential in Christ. Her favorite scripture comes from Psalm 37:4-5 believing that when we take pleasure in the Lord (His Word), God will surely bring the desires of the heart into reality.



# NOAH K. GORDON - Arlington, Tennessee

Noah K. Gordon was recently appointed pastor of Faith Heritage COGIC, a leading ministry in the church, education and community outreach. Pastor Gordon was installed January of 2019 after serving as interim since 2012. He is a faithful leader, successfully carrying out the

directives of the founding pastor, a full-time husband/father, and a full-time principal. Pastor Gordon also serves as the AIM Chairman and Sunday Superintendent for the J.D. Porter Memorial District. Gordon has successfully reached accolades that include assisting in the founding of the school associated with Faith Heritage COGIC; teaching in Memphis City schools; and obtaining licensure to become a school administrator and principal for a well-known Memphis Charter School. Pastor Gordon displays a high-level of humility when it comes to serving the church, community, and others. He was hand selected by the late founder of Faith Heritage COGIC, approved by the jurisdictional bishop and accepted by the founder's wife, membership and community. It was without reservation that the membership accepted him as the successor to continue the work of our Lord and Savior. Pastor Gordon's vision for the ministry is to reach over cultural bonds, creating and implementing programs to foster



diversity in ministry and outreach programs. He currently serves as supervisor for the church's GED program that is offered in English and Spanish, serves the homeless/hungry of the Mid-south independently and with partnering organizations. His educational exploits related to ministry include a daycare, private school and services for adult-students' career readiness. Gordon's vision reaches outside of the U.S. into other countries to directly meet the needs of other churches, educational institutions and specific areas of need. He is able to reach each generation by pulling from his leadership qualities, values, and gifts that benefit God's Kingdom. From baby boomers to millennials, each generation works together in ministry to see the full vision realized to reach and teach disciples for Christ through an integrated study of the Word of God. Pastor Gordon has taken the helm of a powerful organization, fueled by his love for ministry. We are excited to see the fruits of his labor revealed. It is with great enthusiasm that we nominate Pastor Noah Gordon for this most prestigious award.

### CHRISTIAN D. GREEN - Claremont, California

Community Leader. Professor. Politician. Author. Born in a prison cell to an incarcerated mother and unknown father, Christian D. Green has overcome many obstacles rare, atypical and uncommon to others. Elder Christian David Green is a first generation, former foster youth, non-traditional student from the Antelope Valley, specifically Lancaster, California. Being raised in the legal custody of his grandparents he was forced to move all over California. Born in San Bernardino, CA, then



moved to Fresno, CA at the age of 4 until they decided to move to Lancaster, CA at 12 years old. Losing his grandmother at 15 years old turned his life upsideb down causing him to act out and neglect his educational goals. Throughout his educational career and after graduating high school in 2004, he attended five different community colleges across California. He received his Associate of Arts in Psychology from Mt. SAC in 2014, while also traveling internationally and nationally competing on their award-winning Speech and Debate Championship Team. Christian graduated spring 2016 from UCLA with a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and a minor in African American Studies. He then graduated with a Master of Arts in African American Studies in 2018. Elder Green has served on many boards and student organizations: president of Black Graduate Student Association; Organizing Director of the Graduate Student Association; and member of the UCLA Black Alumni Board. He works heavily with the transfer community across all of the California community colleges as a peer counselor and is an advocate for Black and other marginalized communities for higher education. Additionally, he works with

over 1,000 foster youth to ensure they have access to hidden resources and funds to become the success story that they were built to be. His most prized and humbling service is as Youth and Young Adult Pastor in Lancaster, CA at Living Faith Cathedral COGIC, where he leads and helps 80-100 youth and young adults from all walks of life. He also serves on a regional and national level as Jurisdictional Youth President since 2016. Elder Green's goal is to continue to serve and help in various community and student organizations in the greater Los Angeles Area. He has given food, hygiene packets and blankets to over 5,000 homeless, and has visited over 1,000 sick and elderly at convalescent homes. He raised over \$50,000 to host events and programs for people of color so that they too can have a safe space. He is currently serving as Chair, of the Westwood Neighborhood City Council Community and Events committee and plans to attack affordable housing, transportation costs and homelessness issues. Recently, he ran for delegate of the 36th District for the California Democratic Party so that in future he can hopefully run for President of The United States of America, Christian Green has a unique background of African American, Native American, European and Asian descent. Essentially, he has a piece of all cultures flowing through his veins. It is his endeavor to help those considered underprivileged or underserved to plan for their future and be the successful person God has ordained them to be! Elder Green just released his book, "Uncovering Your Worth: From Legal Custody to UCLA" in February 2019 and already sold over 1,000 copies. He anticipates speaking at various community colleges, universities and non-profits around the country (www.ChristianDGreen.com).

## EBONY D. GREEN - Columbia, South Carolina

It is with great honor that I nominate Ebony Green for The Whole Truth's "Forty Under 40" award. Ebony is the founder and CEO of Business and Books, LLC, a consulting company with a physical office in Columbia, SC. Ebony is the self-proclaimed "God's Businesswoman" and has birthed countless businesses in this demographic through her company. The company's motto is "All about the Father's business...Christian business consultants." The company specifically helps Christian schools, authors, ministries and entrepreneurs using the course, "Market ME, God" - where participants obtain a business plan and multiple resources and strategies on how to market and brand, God's way. Ebony was literally born into the Church of God in Christ. She is an active member of Victorious Believers Ministries Church of God in Christ in Columbia, SC where Derrick W. Hutchins II is pastor. At her

church, she serves as the Young Adults' chair, has served on the prayer team since the church's existence, and is an active member of Victorious Living Ministries where on a monthly basis they feed the homeless, volunteer at teen shelters, and help at local nursing homes. Ebony is also a licensed minister under God's End Times Warriors Ministries. Her ministry - "Hands and Feet Ministries ~ Breaking the Walls of Tradition" -is dedicated to outreach, prayer and soul campaigns for Christ. Ebony is also founder of "Make Things Move Campaign," a prayer line for Christian women. Her education includes an undergraduate degree in English-Literature, a Master of Education in Early Childhood and Childhood Education, and a Juris Doctor degree from N.C. Central School of Law. In 2019, the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights appointed Ebony to a four-year term for the South Carolina Advisory Committee board.



Ebony Green is the epitome of a young leader who is striving to please God and help others professionally and personally by praying, praising, learning, volunteering, texting her way to success in business, her church and community.

### MOSAIC GRIFFIN – Wichita, Kansas

I wholeheartedly recommend Mosaic Griffin for The Whole Truth's "40 Under 40" award. Mosaic is an active member of Greater Pentecostal Church of God in Christ in Wichita, KS under the leadership of Administrative Assistant Herman Hicks (Vice Chairman, National Men's Department). She currently works for the Andover School District as a site director for the before and after school program at Robert Martin Elementary School. She also works with their summer latchkey program. She is using this opportunity to prepare for her practicum in graduate school as she pursues the Social Work Program in hopes to advocate for children in the future. Mosaic Griffin is one of the brightest young ladies I know. She is a cut above the rest. Mosaic is involved in school; church; and community activities and allowed God to guide her throughout her transition to adulthood. In high school, she began serving early in various leadership positions including: Student Council,



National Honors Society, and many more organizations. As a student ambassador for her high school, she enthusiastically made herself available to other students by advising them on how to navigate the newness of high school. Furthermore, she represented her school during field trips and community service events. Throughout her

adolescence, she was a repeated recipient of the GP Scholar's Program maintaining a 3.75 or higher. Mosaic finished her first semester of her senior year with a 3.9 GPA. In college, she kept exceeding the standards and staying involved. She was honored to become a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. and received a Bachelor of Arts with a double major in Sociology and Political Science from Wichita State University, with Magna Cum Laude honors. Not only does she have a desire to lead or support others in reaching their goals, she actually leads by example. In the community she is known as a person who cares for others by words and actions. With all of her accomplishments and achievements, she continues to participate in community events around Wichita. She facilitated her class' annual United Way Week where monetary donations were raised for the United Way Foundation of Wichita. Mosaic

also participated in the city's Turkey Drive Week in helping to provide nutritious meals for those in need during the holidays. Mosaic cares about others so much that she helped her school host a fundraiser for the local women's shelter. supporting survivors of rape and domestic violence. She is involved in Art Aid, a community artist driven auction and gallery event that is an opportunity for local artists to display their work. Additionally, she took time to learn about HIV/ AIDS and how it affects families and has done her part to ensure those with HIV/AIDS can live their best life in God. She participates in the Aids Walk each year in April to raise awareness, money and support for those living with HIV/AIDS and in memory of those who have passed. This outstanding young lady is involved in the Kansas University Medical Center's 'Christmas to Remember," a yearly holiday dinner for the HIV/AIDs clients and their families. She also is involved in "A Sweet Affair" which is a picnic used to raise money for the medical expenses of those who have contracted the HIV/ AIDs virus. Mosaic is an asset to the Wichita Community. Mosaic has facilitated events annually in her community and continues to ensure that she does her part to enhance others as she aspires to become a social worker specializing in social policy and strengthening families. At her local church she has served as a member of the Youth and Young Adults executive team, the Youth and Young Adult Choir, Praise Dance Ministry, Fine Arts Ministry, our "Youth on a Mission" team, and assisted in various other ministries. At the Jurisdictional and national levels, she stands out among the best. She is the former secretary of Kansas Southwest Jurisdiction Generation Missing Element Youth and Young Adults Ministry, and the Treasurer of the Youth Department of the Kansas Southwest Church of God in Christ, under the leadership of Bishop Mark L. Gilkey. She was a recipient of the lames Watson District Scholarship and the Kansas Southwest Jurisdiction Scholarship. Mosaic also had the privilege of being one of the recipients for the 2018-2019 National COGIC Charities scholarship, where she was honored nationally during the COGIC Charities Banquet. In June 2019, she was honored by the Kansas Southwest Jurisdiction AIM Convention with the Jurisdictional Young Achiever Award. For the past two years she has volunteered in the Logistics and Operations ministry for the National AIM convention, under the leadership of Bishop Tyrone Butler. She is a young lady of great character and aspirations that wholeheart edly works for others. She carries herself with dignity and strength, for with God she knows she will not fail. Mosaic is on her way to a successful career and she is a blessing to our community and Church. She experienced some heart-breaking obstacles in her life as a child, but it did not stop her from achieving her goals. You will not find many young ladies who are as focused and dedicated as Mosaic.

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## KYLESE HAMMOND - Charlotte, NC

Kylese Hammond is a vibrant, educated, anointed, and submitted young lady. She humbly submits to leadership and as a result, continues to soar and excel in everything she does. Kylese has a unique gift of singing. In fact, she has a produced single entitled, "No Greater Love." She currently serves as minister of music for Kingdom Builders Church International, where she remains faithful in balancing her personal and ministry commitments. A native of Michigan, Kylese has served under the leadership of the late Bishop Marvin C. Pryor and Lady Ruth Pryor; and Bishop Don Shelby and Lady Bonita Shelby. Relocating to



Charlotte, North Carolina, she connected to the ministry of Supt. Darryl L. Grant and Lady Lawanne' S. Grant. Her past and present leaders provide high commendation of who she is and what she will become. Kylese is a featured author in a recent book compilation entitled, "re-POSI-TION-ed for the Blessing". She shares the struggle she had after losing her mother when she was only 16 years of age. The following is a snippet of her book excerpt so that you feel the pulse of her heart: "I am a young woman who whole-heartedly loves Jesus Christ and is passionate about singing. I genuinely love people and willingly offer my gifts, talents, and resources to help others advance. Responding in faith, I relocated from Michigan to North Carolina in hopes of discovering better opportunities and open doors to my destiny. THIS is exactly what happened! I currently serve as a department leader for an AMAZING music department under the leadership of Pastor Darryl L. Grant and Lady Lawanne' S. Grant of Kingdom Builders Church International in Charlotte, NC. Professionally, I'm a skilled School Administrator for K-8 and soaring Entrepreneur. The Test: In March 2003, my mother, the late Lafolyette Raye Hammond, passed

away. I couldn't believe that I'd suffered such a devasting lost at the age of I 6 years old. It's never easy to lose your mother but I'd submit that it's even more difficult when you are a maturing young woman. As far as I can remember, my mother fought to have good health. For years, she endured the struggle between life and death. It seemed that although she was alive, the racking pain never allowed her to enjoy the amenities of life. Admirably, my mother was optimistic in her perspective and conversation. She kept this posture until her demise. When she passed, I was left with the feelings of being totally lost, confused, and alone. In fact, I was secretly angry at God. How could He take my nurturing compass for life? What kind of God permits a mother to be taken from their child when there are so many lessons for her to teach?... I figured if it didn't heal her, surely, I couldn't expect God to heal the aching pain of my heart. I became less interested in being around church folks or anything that reflected God. This availed more time for me to engage in what I wanted to do to make me feel better. Unfortunately, some of these activities were the gateway for exposure to activities that I knew weren't pleasing to God. The aftermath left me with guilt, shame, and unworthiness. Sinking deep into depression, I entertained suicidal thoughts because I couldn't bear living life without my mother. My father did everything he knew in order to keep my siblings and I afloat. Perhaps, this is the reason I didn't totally drown in despair. Thanks, Dad, for keeping our family strong and together even when everything was fighting to tear us apart..."



#### MORANDON HENRY - Richmond, California

Morandon A Henry is an up-and-coming political leader of today. He serves as a voice of strength for a generation of young people in his community and beyond and has a unique ability to both influence and inspire change. In 2010, Henry recognized that his community needed innovative leadership to concentrate on the needs of African Americans. After being inspired by his mentor, Congresswoman Barbara Lee, and his grandparents, Henry attended the Oakland NAACP Youth Council leadership training - the very first time he was introduced to the NAACP as a youth. During this training, a flame within a young activist was lit. Since then, Morandon's interest in pertinent issues and passion for serving the association hasn't ceased. In the NAACP, he has fulfilled several roles at the local, state, and national levels. He is currently a member of the NAACP National Board of Directors, and 2nd vice president of the California Hawaii NAACP Youth & College Division. Morandon Henry has an extensive and proven working knowledge of Public Policy and Civic Engagement. Most recently, he served as a field organizer for "Hillary



For America" during the California primary, where he hosted many campaigns, surrogates and engaged with all communities around the San Francisco Bay Area. During the general election, he served on "For45," which was the Young Professionals For Hillary Clinton National Finance Committee. Morandon is currently the Bay Area political director for the California Young Democrats Black Caucus. He has received numerous awards and honors for his work, including the NAACP Gloster B Current National Youth Leadership Award, the City of Berkeley Mayors Award, Consorts Club of the Bay Area Youth Scholar Award, and Oakland Unified School District community service award. He is a graduate of Oral Roberts University and will soon pursue his master's degree.



# JENNIFER HUDSON - Atlanta, Georgia

I would like to nominate a young lady from my local congregation, Sister Jennifer Hudson for The Whole Truth's "40 Under 40" award. I believe she would be a great candidate for this award because she is dominating in every area of her life: business, community, and church. Jennifer Hudson, a native of Brunswick, GA, is a small business alignment strategist, and entrepreneurship advisor. Jennifer is the wife of Elder Antwan Hudson; mother of five outstanding young men: Juan, KhyLee, Levi, Meritt and Prince; and the CEO and senior consultant of the Atlanta based consulting firm, Fierce Consulting Group. In the business world, Jennifer is known as The Nonprofit Cultivator and The Business Pastor. Her specialty is non-profit organizations and the federal tax exemption (501c3) process. Her passion is to help individuals realize their dreams of entrepreneurship and explain how a non-profit organization may benefit them. She helps clients tackle such issues as formation, strategic planning, accounting/bookkeeping, operations and sustainability. Jennifer is also active



in her community. She is a founding member and Board member of a nonprofit organization, Helping Hands of Georgia Metro, Inc. in Atlanta, Ga and is the CFO of Safe Haven Youth Outreach, Inc. in Atlanta, GA. Through these organizations, lennifer volunteers to assist those less fortunate through establishing food pantries, providing GED assistance, and offering guidance and spiritual counseling. Sis. Hudson is an asset to the Body of Christ. She has served as the Church Administrator in our local church, Seed Planters Community Church of God in Christ, under Supt. Marland G. Montgomery of the Greater Harvest District of the Georgia Metropolitan Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction (Bishop Michael J. Paden, Sr., prelate). She is also active in the music ministry where she is a Praise and Worship leader and choir member. In addition to the music ministry, Sis. Hudson lends her gifts and time to the Youth Ministry where she is "Auntie" and mentor to all the youth, the Pastoral Aide Committee, and the Finance Committee. On the jurisdictional level, Sis. Hudson is the jurisdictional coordinator of Urban Initiatives. Not only does she offer classes during our monthly 4th Saturday trainings, she designed a learning portal that offers classes online in each of the five platforms of Urban Initiatives: Family, Financial Literacy, Education, Economic Development and Crime Prevention, in hopes of reaching more people. Her goal is to have all churches in her jurisdiction certified and providing programs in their community in all 5 platforms. Jennifer obtained a bachelor's in Business Administration with a concentration in Finance from Georgia State University in 2005; a master's in Business Administration, with a concentration in Entrepreneurship, from South University in 2012, and is ABD for her Doctorate in Business Administration which she says will prayerfully be completed in 2020. She has over 15 years of experience in the nonprofit sector and serves individuals and organizations nationwide. She selflessly and consistently gives of herself wherever she is needed, never looking for anything in return. Her mantra and favorite scripture is Isaiah 58:12,"...and thou shalt be called The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in."

#### ANTHONY HUDSON, SR. - Cincinnati, Ohio

Pastor Anthony M. Hudson, Sr. was born in Cincinnati, Ohio. He was raised at Holy Trinity COGIC and became a musician at a very young age. He served the church as the drummer, organist, Youth Music president, and Minister of Music. In 2005, Pastor Hudson accepted his call to ministry and was licensed as a minister. In 2008, Anthony was ordained as an elder in the Church of God in Christ under the late Bishop F.E. Perry. In 2010, the now Elder Hudson founded the Greater Faith Ministries Church of God in Christ in the city of Cincinnati. Since then, the church has grown numerically, and has been responsible for community outreach events, such as school supply giveaways, providing



winter apparel for the homeless, serving meals at the drop-in center, and much more. Pastor Hudson also founded and serves as president of the Faith for Life Community Development Corporation, designed to meet the needs of the less fortunate and youth in various communities in the city of Cincinnati. Elder Hudson has a great love for the youth and their development. He currently serves as the jurisdictional youth president for the Ohio Southern Jurisdiction. He was recently appointed as vice president of the Youth Department for the Mid-North Global region, leading all young people in the Michigan, Canada, Ohio, and Western Pennsylvania areas. He also serves as assistant executive secretary of the National Coalition of Jurisdictional Presidents, serving the International Youth Department. In 2018, Pastor Hudson was appointed as district superintendent of the Faith Impact District and currently oversees three churches. Supt. Hudson is a national adjutant and serves as the chief adjutant of The Ohio Southern Jurisdiction. Supt. Hudson is also the CEO of Anthony M. Hudson Ministries. which is an umbrella under which his evangelism, publish-

ing and music ministries are housed. Additionally, he is author of the nationally published book, "The Courage to Love Again: A Believers Guide to Overcoming Divorce and Living Victorious". Supt. Hudson has secular degrees from ITT Technical Institute and Urbana University is currently pursuing his Bachelor of Arts in Leadership and Ministry from the Ohio Christian University. In the secular field, he is a Recruiting Specialist for the Dohn Community High School in Cincinnati, Ohio where he works tirelessly to give life and second chances to high school students who have dropped out of school, are failing, or are struggling in school. Hudson is married to the lovely Tramelle King-Hudson, and father of four beautiful children: Anthony Jr., Naziyah, Nazayla and Christopher.

# MICHAEL HUNT - Waldorf, Maryland

At the age of 35, Elder Hunt serves this great church as youth pastor of New Community Church of God in Christ under the leadership of his father, Pastor Willie R. Hunt. He also serves as minister of music for his local church and district, and as AIM chairman for the Maryland Central Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction under the leadership of Bishop Carl A. Pierce Sr. - all while serving nationally as an executive staff member of the International Music Department and assistant coordinator of the International Youth Choir. Elder Hunt is not

only active in the church, but is extremely active in the community as a football coach for over 13 years, and as an instructional assistant in the Charles County Public School system. His greatest accomplishment is founding his Favored Music Group, LLC in 2017. Elder Hunt was born to worship! During a midnight prayer at age 17, the Lord said, "I'm calling you into ministry." Later that year during a Sunday morning service, the pastor laid hands on Michael and said, "God has called you to be the worship leader." Since the age of 17, Elder Hunt has served as praise and worship leader of New Community Church of God in Christ. He is faithful to the Lord and is an avid worshipper that has received many appointments outside of his local church: Appointed as an administrative assistant of the International Youth Choir under the leadership of Kim Burrell (2008); appointed to the executive staff of the International Music Department under the leadership of Dr. Judith McAllister (2009); appointed as the assistant youth choir coordinator and assistant security director—International Music



Department (2012); "Choir Director of the Year"- COGIC International Music Department (2014); founded Favored Music Group, LLC (2017); appointed as minister of music the New Community Church of God in Christ, under the leadership of Superintendent Willie R. Hunt (2018); appointed as AIM Chairman of the Maryland Central Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction under the leadership of Bishop Carl A. Pierce (2019); appointed as youth pastor of New Community Church of God in Christ, under the leadership of Superintendent Willie R. Hunt (2019), Elder Hunt is married to a prayer warrior, Evangelist Latashia Hunt, and continues to be faithful to his home church and the ministry that God has burned within his heart.



### CEDRIC D.T. JACKSON, JR.

- Cleveland Heights, Ohio

Cedric Jackson, Jr. was taught at an early age by his parents, Elder Cedric D.T. Jackson, Sr. and Evangelist Linda J. Jackson, that self-expression is essential to personal development. From a very young age, Cedric exhibited a profound love for music and art. He was introduced to gospel music by his parents, who enjoy singing, writing, playing, and performing. Their love and passion for gospel music became contagious.

Cedric's parents enforced the learning of basic Music Theory, and made it possible for Cedric and his siblings to learn at least two instruments. At the age of three, Cedric began to play the drums. At the age of thirteen, his deep and strong love for music motivated him to pick up the electric bass, piano and organ. In an effort to build his overall comprehension of music, and the theory behind it, Cedric enrolled in an advanced placement Music Theory course during his junior year at Cleveland Heights High School in Cleveland Heights, Ohio. It was during this experience that he realized he was blessed with "perfect" or "absolute" pitch. Cedric was able to maintain an A+ in the class and received college credit for an outstanding score on the advanced placement exam. As the commencement speaker for his 2009 high school class, Cedric graduated with honors and received scholarships to study at John Carroll

University (JCU) in University Heights, Ohio. As a Computer Information Systems major at JCU, Cedric's love for graphic design truly manifested. During his freshmen year of college, he founded CEDRICMedia™, to specialize in web and graphic design, while also providing professional music services. Under the umbrella of CEDRICMedia™, Cedric currently works as a graphic art designer, professional drummer, bassist, pianist, and Hammond organist. Cedric's passion for gospel music has granted him numerous opportunities to utilize his musical talents at a variety of venues with many artists. He also lends his talents to the Ohio North First Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction under the leadership of Bishop Edward T. Cook. Of his musical accomplishments, Cedric deems accompanying the eight-time Grammy and Academy Award-winning gospel artist, the late

Pastor Andraé Crouch, on piano at his uncle's church, The Word COGIC (Pastor Eddie T. Parker III, Columbus, OH) as one of his greatest! Cedric also composes, arranges, and produces music for Christian and gospel artists. Of his graphic design accomplishments, Cedric considers being employed by John Carroll University's Center for Career Services to create custom graphic designs and presentations among one



of his greatest. With an ever-growing client base, CEDRICMedia™ produces various, dynamic graphic designs for businesses, non-profits, places of worship, and events. Cedric graduated from John Carroll University with a Bachelor of Science in Computer Information Services in 2014. Currently, Cedric serves as the lead musician and music programmer for Rhema Fellowship COGIC (Cleveland, OH) and volunteers for Youth for Holiness and People for Your Life ministries. Upon graduation from ICU, Cedric was recruited to work at

AmTrust Financial, Inc. as a Web Developer, where he made an immediate impact on the work culture. Cedric became a Technical Supervisor for Front End Web Developers at AmTrust where he was able to amass a conglomerate of skills, including project management, code management, and supervision. Because of his exemplary reputation at AmTrust, he was aggressively recruited by other corporations. Cedric is currently employed as the Senior User Interface Engineer at Chmura Economics and Analytics in Cleveland. Through all his success, Cedric has remained faithful to the Lord, his family, and as a tithing member of his local church! His lifestyle testimony is impeccable, and he has the support and endorsement of his parents as well as local church leadership! TO GOD BETHE GLORY!



# BREANA JELKS - Montgomery, Illinois

Breana Jelks was born and raised at the Greater Mount Olive COGIC, founded by her grandparents, Bishop William Haven Bonner and Mother Dorothy Mae Bonner in Aurora, IL. She grew up participating in the Sunshine Band, Sunday School, YPWW, Bible Study, youth choirs, praise teams, Vacation Bible School, and more. After participating in Scholastic Motivation Ministries for many years during her childhood and being recognized as a repeat top performer for the financial district, she served on the National Scholastic Motivation Ministry team with Superintendent David Whittley. In 2011, Breana was humbled to be the inspirational speaker

for the main evening service during the International AIIM Convention where her topic was "The Purpose of Your Stand." Breana has had a unique educational journey. At age fourteen she was accepted into college. For three years she was enrolled in high school and college simultaneously. She received an Associates in Business Administration at age seventeen, before receiving her high school diploma. She also studied at University of Illinois and received a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and Marketing with a minor Management (cum laude) at age 19. Breana pursued a graduate degree at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, where she received a Master of Science in Retail Merchandising and Consumer Studies at age 21. After receiving her master's, she founded Bonner Jones Enterprises in July 2017, which offers marketing and communications consulting, as well as website and



graphic design services. In fact, Breana esigned and currently manages the Greater Mt. Olive website and Facebook page. Breana has gained marketing and communications experience at several companies. In addition to being an entrepreneur she now works in Human Resources, specializing in recruitment marketing, for an international retailer where she is proud to be driving diversity recruiting initiatives, managing their employer brand messaging, and serving as the project manager for employee photoshoots and testimonial video production. Since she has been back from graduate school, Breana has been very active in the Greater Mount Olive C.O.G.I.C. She creates and distributes weekly e-newsletters to the congregation which include weekly announcements, birthday shout-outs, community outreach opportunities, health/wellness tips, monthly awareness messages, and holiday well-wishes. She's increased Mt. Olive's giving capabilities by introducing Givelify and Square credit card readers. Breana has also created a brand identity for Greater Mount Olive by designing a church logo, a new letterhead, matching envelopes, and branded business cards for Pastor Wright and Assistant Pastor Jones. She works to achieve the seemingly unachievable because she knows that she can do all things through Jesus Christ which strengthens her. Breana truly believes that life is about making a positive impact.

#### ALIYAH JOSEPH - Sherwood, Arkansas

Aliyah Marie Joseph is a fifth generation member of the Church of God in Christ, born on June 16, 1995 in Little Rock, Arkansas. She is the daughter of Evangelist June D. Joseph and Elder Donald R. Joseph. A 2013 graduate of North Little Rock High School, she chose to attend college in the neighboring city of Little Rock so she would not have to leave her family and church. Aliyah is a member of The Greater New Bibleway Church of God in Christ in North Little Rock, where her uncle, Elder Dennis J. Rodgers, Sr. is pastor. Her late grandfather was the founding pastor. Her areas of ministry include mass choir directress, praise & worship leader, youth choir assistant directress,



Sunday School secretary, Finance team member, and co-coordinator of The Young Adult Ministry (YAM). As the choir directress, Aliyah leads and directs worship & praise that gives way to God's anointing. As the Sunday School Secretary, she is present and accountable for on Sunday mornings as a student and as the secretary. She practices exemplary accuracy and professionalism in her collecting, recording, and reporting. As a member of the church finance team, Aliyah serves with integrity and in honesty. As co-coordinator of The Young Adult Ministry, she serves as public relations lead and co-coordinator of I-Rep Sunday. Leading up to I-Rep Sunday, she encourages the church body to wear their favorite jersey or t-shirt representing their church, team, fraternity, sorority, school; and to also invite their family, friends, and co-workers to church on that Sunday. She promotes I-Rep Sunday through flyers, vocal announcements, Facebook posts, Twitter messages, and through consistently texting the Young Adult Ministry members. In

addition, she continuously receives commendable recognition for having the most visitors present on this Sunday because she single-handedly reaches out to her college peers, sorority sisters, and friends. Aliyah is a faithful member of the North Little Rock District and is member of the district praise and worship team, and directs the district choir. On the jurisdictional level under the leadership of Bishop Frank J. Anderson, Jr. and Supervisor Jeanette A. Watkins, her dedication remains consistent. She assists in coordinating the AIM Choir, and serves as a speaker, emcee, and as a panelist on symposiums during AIM Convention. She serves in The State Choir as a regional liaison, section leader, praise singer, and directress. Aliyah is a 2018 graduate of The University of Arkansas at Little Rock with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Health/Human Performance/Sports Management with a Concentration in Health Education & Promotion and a minor in Speech-Language Pathology. In just one year later in May of 2019, Aliyah graduated from The University of Central Arkansas in Conway with a Bachelor of Science in Communication Sciences and Disorders. She has applied for graduate school in order to pursue a Masters in Speech Pathology. To sum her up, Aliyah is a determined young woman who has taken full advantage of every God-given opportunity afforded to her to change the world one opportunity at a time!

## TERRY KIDD - Houston, Texas

It gives me great pleasure to nominate Dr. Terry T. Kidd for the "40 Under 40" award. I have known Dr. Terry for ten years through our work in higher education. Dr. Kidd has been an outstanding faculty member, a strong administrator as associate dean, and an innovative change agent as dean. In 2011, Dr. Kidd earned a PhD from Texas A&M University where he studied Education, with emphasis in Social Science Research Methods and Digital Humanities. Since beginning his career, he's had very successful, impactful years of working at the University of Houston-Downtown as an Educational Technology Support Specialist; at the School of Public Health as the Director of Instruction, Development; and at the Houston Independent School District as an Educational Technology Supervisor & Curriculum Specialist. At Houston Community College, Dr. Kidd has been a champion and driving force for workforce development and continuing education, working to ensure those who are economically disenfranchised and socially marginalized have a chance at the American Dream. Currently as dean, Dr. Kidd oversees the largest workforce development and continuing education enterprise in the nation - the Division of Extended Learning. This division comprises the School of Continuing Education, Department of Corrections Education, Apprenticeship Programs, Alternative Teacher Certification, VAST Academy, Community Education, and Online Continuing Education. A core tenant of his work is social justice and integrity, working to fight for the poor, the forgotten,

and the voiceless. To this work, Dr. Kidd has developed over 20 new occupational, high-demand certificate and credit programs to meet industry demands. He has developed a system for career and job readiness, job placement, and social wrap around services for minority students. He has written and received funding for federal and states grants in excess of \$8 MIL to support workforce training initiatives. Further to these successes, Dr. Kidd has work with city leaders to create educational opportunities for our county jail and state probationer systems, as well as developed apprenticeship programs with our local union and non-union partners. Dr. Kidd has created programs for homeless youth, veterans, and foster care youth. He lives by the motto, "It's all about changing the lives of people." Since, I've known Dr. Kidd, he has been a motivator, an encourager, and at times hope. I learned he was a member of the Church of God in Christ. Although I have little church experience and tend to be skeptical about religion, I see something in Dr. Kidd. He is faithful to his church, teaching the Adult Male Sunday School Class and serves as Sunday School Superintendent. He is



very active in his church - Ellis Memorial Church of God in Christ, under the leadership of Bishop Designee Dr. Morris Jenkins, Jr. Choosing Terry Kidd as a recipient of this award showcases the power of God and what He is able to accomplish in the lives of people.



#### JACQUELINE KING - Cordova, Tennessee

Evangelist Jacqueline C. King is a child of the Church of God in Christ and has been an exceptional help to the church. Most people are familiar with Jackie's grandfather, Bishop Carlis L. Moody, Sr. or her mother, Supervisor Sideary King. However, Evangelist King is making waves in her own right and has become an



established missionary in the church. I would consider Evangelist King to be key to the future of COGIC World Missions as she has helped to usher a new generation of missionaries into the church. As the global leader for The Awakening Project, Evangelist King has been the coordinator behind one of Missions' most tremendous outpourings in the last few years. A few highlights from the work that Evangelist King has led via The Awakening Project, include: • Coordinating activities simultaneously in 13 cities, including Johannesburg, South Africa, as a mission's project to stir up the gifts in young adults; • Organized walk-a-thons and prayer walks across multiple cities; • Incorporated corporate giving into Missions activities; • 6000+ hours of community service; • 10K+ lives impacted; • 800+ lives led to Christ. In addition, Evangelist King was part of COGIC-Passages Israel initial team of 40 millennials that partook in the 2017 Holy Land Experience. She has become the de

factor millennial leader with COGIC World Missions and is helping to identify the next generation of leaders that will go into all the world. In addition to ministry highlights, Evangelist King is a noted professional and entrepreneur. Aside from her activities at Progressive Insurance, Evangelist King is a licensed real estate agent in TN and GA, and a real estate investor in several major cities. She owns homes in both GA and TN, and has made an exceptional real estate portfolio. In addition to her real estate portfolio, she owns three long haul semi-trucks. Two of her trucks were taken out of production to help haul items to victims of Hurricanes Harvey and Irma in 2017. In addition to lending her own resources, Evangelist King took off work to help with relief efforts in Houston in 2017 and Baton Rouge in 2016. Evangelist King has been integral to the restoration of Saints Academy in Lexington, MS as she goes there on weekends to perform restoration work on the buildings and to clean.



## CHRISTIAN LEWIS - Detroit, Michigan

Christian D. Lewis is COGIC born and raised. She is an active member of her local assembly, Breaking Chains Outreach Ministries (BCOM) COGIC, under the leadership of Supt. Darthanian Y. B. Nichols. Christian is one of the charter members of Breaking Chains and currently serves as Director of Women, leading the group God's Leading Ladies. Christian works closely with her pastor, as well as District Missionary Villena Hunt on the district level within the Freedom District. Locally, Christian serves on the altar/deliverance team, intercessory prayer team, praise & worship and finance teams. Christian has remained faithful and committed to the work of the Kingdom while being a caretaker for her ailing mother, working full-time and on the dean's list at



member, she is continuing the legacy of her family and is a trailblazer in her own right for truth, justice and the way of holiness. She believes what the scripture says, and whatever her hands find to do, she does it heartedly as unto the Lord. Christian believes in making full proof of the ministry in which she has been called and chosen for and she evangelizes in the streets, jails, shelters, nursing homes, hospitals or anywhere the Lord will lead her. She believes that the study of the Word of God should never be limited to just preaching but is very much necessary for the practicality of everyday life.

college. Christian is 5th generation COGIC

#### WAYNE MARTIN, JR. - Atlanta, Georgia

Elder Wayne Martin, Jr. is a lifelong member of the Church of God in Christ. As a native of Atlanta, he's been a stalwart in the civic and sacred communities across the state of Georgia. It's no secret that a prophetic calling has been on Elder Martin's life since he was a child to be a politician and eventually serve as mayor of the city of Atlanta. His life has been on the appropriate trajectory to accomplish this calling and provide change to the surrounding communities. Elder Martin is a mentee of Atlanta's first black mayor, the Honorable Maynard Jackson. He was part of Mayor Jackson's youth leadership academy and eventually began to serve as a close personal mentee of Mayor Jackson. When Mayor Jackson passed in 2003, then 19-year-old Martin was aksed to give remarks at the service in front of many of our nation's



noted civic leaders. In June 2019, Wayne Martin assumed the role of VP of Community Relations with Comcast in Atlanta. Since graduating from Morehouse, Elder Martin has served in several civic roles including: • Atlanta Housing Authority, Government Relations Director; • Campaign Manager, Caesar Mitchell 2017 Mayoral Campaign; • Atlanta Public Schools, Chief of Staff; • Atlanta City Council, Chief of Staff. Elder Martin has volunteered his time throughout the state of Georgia and has been responsible for mentoring 20+ young people who've matriculated through colleges and universities and are now successful in their own arenas. Elder Martin was a member of the 2014 class for LEAD Atlanta - a program that recognizes top civic leaders in Atlanta under age 35. In addition, he's been recognized as part of 100 Black Men of America's Emerging 100 - a program that recognizes the leading men of African descent in Atlanta. Apart from

his civic duties, Elder Martin serves his church. He was ordained in 2013 and is currently operating as the worship director for Cathedral of Faith Church of God in Christ. In this role, he has realigned the way worship is done to focus on glorifying God in service and trimming down parts of service that detract from worship. This role allows him to lead the church's arts, music and worship ministries where he has oversight of a large staff and ensues that the streaming ministry is functioning appropriately. Within his jurisdiction, Elder Martin serves as treasurer for the Missions Department, finance officer for the Light of the World District, and is considered one of the state's leading men. Elder Martin has been twice nominated by Bishop Vincent Mathews to be an ambassador for COGIC in Israel during the Passages Experience. He's an excellent father that dedicates time to his wife and three children.



# ERINNA MCKISSICK - Saginaw, Michigan

Evangelist Erinna McKissick possesses an impressive educational background from Howard University and Grand Rapids Theological Seminary, which she uses to help empower the Body of Christ. Although

she was already an ordained minister in the Baptist church when she joined Victorious Believers Ministries COG-IC, she still humbly went through the COGIC missionary class and graduated as a licensed evangelist. Her children are very active in ministry, including involvement in Scholastic Motivation Ministries, Children's Ministry, both in the local and international church, Children's Choir, Sunday School, and also attend the International AIM Convention. In 2018, her 8-year-old son won first

place in his division in the talent competition at International AIM playing the drums. Erinna is dedicated to helping nurture her children's spiritual gifts and teaching them the ways of God. In addition, she is an accomplished author who has courageously shared her life story of triumphing after marital abuse to encourage others. She works exceptionally well with other church leaders in various auxiliaries and departments and provides leadership training during our general leadership meetings and for the church staff. She has helped me tremendously as a pastor by taking a lot of pressure off of me due to her phenomenal skill set at strategically coordinating both administrative and ministry logistics as the senior director of Ministries. She also serves as the director of our Youth and Young Adult Department and oversees our Young Adult Ministry for members ages 18-35. Evangelist McKissick helps support the

vision of the ministry and really understands my heart as a pastor. She has also played a role in supporting the ministry of our jurisdictional supervisor, Mother Earlie Peppers, by speaking and helping train others

during meetings. Furthermore, she takes the time to be a mentor to new missionaries and other young women growing in their relationship with Christ. Evangelist McKissick is a humble servant-leader who feels that titles are not important, but that the most important thing is to share the Gospel with others. She also possesses the ability to convey a powerful message to the people of God. In fact, on some Sundays when I am unable to speak or am out of town, I trust her to deliver

the message in my place. Erinna will soon travel with a delegation from our ministry to Accra, Ghana for a mission trip where she will be preaching, teaching, and providing leadership training to young adults and church leaders. Evangelist Erinna McKissick was among the top students in her class at Howard University, where she graduated magna cum laude in 2007 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Journalism. In May of 2014, she graduated magna cum laude from Cornerstone University in Grand Rapids, MI with a Master of Arts in Ministry Leadership. Currently, she serves as the Senior Director of Ministries and the Youth and Young Adult Director at Victorious Believers Ministries Church of God in Christ in Saginaw, MI. She is also the founder and CEO of EM Ministries and EM Destiny.





#### TENA MCQUEEN - Lufkin, Texas

Tena McQueen has been an active member of Woods Memorial Temple COGIC in Lufkin, TX, under the leadership of Supt. Chester M. Robinson since 2010. She has diligently served in the following ministries: Praise & Worship Team, Liturgical Worship, Pastor's Aid Committee, YWCC, and YPWW Youth Director. Tena has been very faithful in her attendance and in supporting her local church, various districts, and the Texas Southeast Third Jurisdiction (Bishop T.T. Terry, prelate). Tena is a hard worker and has been instrumental in coordinating, securing and raising funds for numerous church needs, events, trips, and preparing meals for the youth before each Bible Study. As a single mother of seven children between the ages of 4 and 16, it's amazing how she is able to balance her family, job, school, church, and community activities. She would be quick to tell you, "All praise and honor belongs to God". For four years, Tena has worked three jobs while putting in the work with Habitat for Humanity to buy a home for her family. She lived in a three-bedroom apartment for 10 years while attending school and working her way up. She often relied on family to help make ends meet, despite the many weeks she worked 80 plus hours. Her



faith in God, prayer and perseverance paid off and on Saturday, June 1, 2019, she received the keys to her new home. Tena and her family were recently featured on the front page of the Lufkin Daily Newspaper. In her own words from the newspaper article,"I will not stop volunteering just because I have my own home. I'm going to continue to help others because I know the feeling of having your own home." The support and guidance she received from staff, professors, advisers, church family, and the community helped encourage her to continue setting and obtaining reachable goals. As the director of Bright Beginnings Preschool, Tena recently submitted a proposal and received grant funds for the "Future of North Lufkin". This group, along with other sponsors, will host a community event on October 3, 2019 providing school supplies for North Lufkin children. In 2015, Tena's personal

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dream of having a business was realized through the birth of "Queens Creations," providing décor for special events such as weddings, conferences, anniversaries and moreln addition to all her work and church obligations Tena and her children are active members working with the North Lufkin Community Choir, and the Big Body Ryders Horse Riding Club. Tena is an inspiration to other single mothers within the church and community, encouraging them to trust God, step up, and get involved by making a positive difference in someone's life. Her motto is "Positive Vibes Only".



## CARL PATTEN II – Atlanta, Georgia

Elder Carl E. Patten II does not have the typical testimony of young COGIC leaders. Young COGIC leaders often speak to the number of generations their family has been in the church. Conversely, Elder Patten was born and raised as a Nichiren Buddhist. As a result, he has a vast understanding of what it takes to genuinely do missions and work to meet the needs of those who require seeing the light of God. Elder Carl Patten II has been an ordained minister for 12 years but has been active in ministry for 18 years. He accepted his calling shortly after converting to Christianity and preached his first sermon in 2001 while attending the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). Patten is a noted leader and has the track record to support it. Upon graduating from MIT, he moved to Atlanta and enrolled in the Charles Harrison Mason Theological Seminary at the Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC). While on

campus, Patten served as the COGIC student body vice president, senior class president, and a member of the Theta Phi Theological Honor Society. Today, Elder Patten serves as the youngest member of the C. H. Mason Seminary Board of Trustees. With an ever-growing interest in higher education, Elder Patten also holds an MBA from Emory University Goizueta Business School. While a student at Emory, Patten served as the community service chair and did a semester abroad at WITS University Business School in Johannesburg, South Africa. Patten is currently a doctoral candidate at Emory University, Candler School of Theology, where he is focusing on understanding community-based assets and leadership support for financing the Great Commission. Elder Patten has been involved in the life of the church since his matriculation

through ITC. He has performed missions and preached in 20+countries on four continents. In his role as vice president of COGIC World Missions, Elder Patten has full fiscal responsibility for the work done in 105 countries. In this role, he maintains and supports several key corporate partnerships that benefit the work of COGIC World Missions, including: Moja. Africa,

Frederick Douglas Leadership Institute, Convoy of Hope, Human Coalition and World Vision. Since being appointed as VP, Elder Patten has led several key initiatives that support the tremendous growth of missions, including designing the website, initiating a successful capital campaign, chairing the Appropriations Committee and bringing financial solvency and transparency into COGIC World Missions. Beyond his work in missions, Elder Patten continues to focus on ministry work at all levels. Patten's litany of church accomplishments is too vast to fully name; however, some include: • COGIC World Missions, Vice President of Finance • COGIC World Missions, Vice President of Strategy & Chief of Staff • COGIC Achievers, Top 20 Under 40 • Board of Trustees, Charles Harrison Mason Theological Seminary • Special Taskforce to the President for Transformation of Theological Education, Interdenominational

Theological Center • 2016 COGIC Scholars Honoree for support of Theological Education • 2018 COGIC Cares Scholarship Recipient, COGIC Charities • Charles Harrison Mason Theological Seminary, 2010 Distinguished Alumnae Award, Beyond Elder Patten's work in ministry, he is noted for his career in Corporate America. He currently serves as the Global Director of Innovation for Integrated Delivery and Value-Based Care at NTT Data, ranked #50 in the Fortune 500. He previously served as a management consultant at Accenture for over ten years. Elder Patten's career has netted over \$7.5B to the benefit of his clients and \$1.8B in sales for his employers while working across the globe. Carl Patten's career includes publishing several articles and blogs, including "The Day Healthcare, Died" and "Putting the Customer Front

and Center in the ACO Model." His career accomplishments continue to grow as he recently founded an employee affinity group at NTT Data to support employees of African descent. Clearly, Patten has already amassed great accomplishments in his young life, and I believe the best is yet to come.





### JACQUETTA RANSOM - Grovetown, Georgia

It is my absolute pleasure and honor to recommend Jacquetta Ransom to you for this "40 Under 40" recognition. It gives me great joy to call her daughter! After hearing about this at the AIM this year I knew I had to nominate her. I strongly believe that you would struggle to find a person more deserving than her. Jacquetta has been in this church from cradle roll until present. She is an advocate for the young people in her local church where she works with Young Women Christian Council, Young Women of Excellence, Vacation Bible School, Dance Ministry and plans for the Singles Retreat. In the community, Jacquetta has volunteered with the Bridge Ministry (feeding the homeless), and the Master's Table (feeding the homeless); she has a heart for the people. While attending Buffalo State, Jacquetta decided she was going to Africa for a summer volunteer mission trip. When



money appeared to be a hindrance, she decided to write letters to churches in our jurisdiction and to our local district to ask for financial assistance. Needless to say, she went on this mission and did great things working with orphans and widows. Jacquetta is a lover and advocate of education for the young students she teaches in her high school. She is very compassionate with her students and concerned about their education. She always goes beyond the call of duty to ensure that they are preparing themselves for higher learning. This year in late summer, Jacquetta is on her way to Indonesia as a Fulbright Scholar. Her mission is to meet with teachers and educational leaders to gain insight on ways to enhance classroom learning, while creating international connections. I have absolutely no reservation about nominating Jacquetta for the 40 Under 40 recognition. She is a shining member in this community and her church. She hopes to continue

impacting the world through her students and by pushing boundaries in the field of education.



# ANGELA SIMS – Kansas City, Kansas

Angela J. Sims, a native of Kansas City, is the youngest born to Bishop Ervin Sims, Jr. and Supervisor Mary K. Sims. Angela has a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration in Marketing from University of Central Missouri. Aspiring Missionary Sims is a faithful member of the Mt. Carmel Church of God in Christ in



Kansas City and the Ghana Jurisdiction, where her father is the bishop. She jokes and says she has worked in almost every auxiliary of the church but spent the most time as a member of the Praise and Worship Team, Choir, Vacation Bible School Committee, Youth Department, Church Marketing, and Director of the Drama Department. She has also traveled internationally doing mission work in Dominican Republic, England, and Ghana West Africa where she has watched God manifest himself time and time again. In 2019, Ms. Sims became a published author releasing her 1st book - "2019 Faith Planner and Devotional: Expanding our Faith through Evangelism". The book is a daily planner and devotional aiding and encouraging others to GO and share the message of Jesus Christ. She gave away a FREE copy to every member of her church stating that she "just wants people to grow in Christ." As a playwright, Angela wrote, "The Processional of Levites," a play that depicted the history of the Tabernacle with life size replicas of each artifact. Angela also authors a blog at www.PurpleCraftDiva.com where she blogs about "crafts and Jesus." Professionally, Angela is currently the church administrator at the Mt. Carmel Church of God in Christ where she handles financial, property and human resource management. Using her marketing background, Angela created a Church Marketing and Branding Manual that combines corporate advertising strategy with biblical principles. It has been used as a blueprint for marketing strategies for several churches across the county. Angela is also a natural born entrepreneur and started her first business at age 10. She's owned several businesses, including a bakery called "Desserts by Angie," where she turned her hobby and passion into purpose by helping others enjoy the sweet life. In 2017, Angela joined the Women's Foundation in Kansas City, where she "will work for change" to reach equality for women. She is also a proud member Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Most importantly, Angela is saved and filled with the Holy Spirit. She is passionate about reaching her destiny and being faithful to what God has called her to do.

#### BRANDON SMITH - Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Brandon M. Smith - husband, father, pastor, community developer. Since he was a small child, Brandon stood out among other youth his age, but has proven to be more than just another "cute kid". He married his college sweetheart, is the father of 3 beautiful children, and is planter and pastor of a community-minded church, Grace Covenant Community Church in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Elder Smith teaches and models cherishing marital vows and spending time with family. His sense of humor is a tool to knit people together and has often eased painful moments when life throws those curved balls. He was introduced to Christ by his family in the Church of God in Christ of Eastern Louisiana Jurisdiction. He grew up participating in Sunday School, Youth Choir, Vacation Bible School and YPWW. As a young



man, Elder Smith had an incredible desire to make contributions to the growth and development of his local church, Richardson Chapel COGIC. He became the director of the youth department and co-founded the Youth Spiritual Empowerment Conference, served as choir director, minister of music, Sunday School teacher, and member of the church's Leadership Team. Smith is the vice president and choir director for the District Music Department and president of the Youth Department (Fourth East Progressive COGIC) and serves with the Iurisdictional Music department in various capacities (Louisiana East First COGIC). He also serves the Louisiana East First Jurisdiction in multiple capacities including: Music Department vice president, director of Men's Ministry, and coordinator for Urban Initiatives. In January 2011, Smith was appointed department administrator for the Southern Region of the International Youth Department (AL, AR, LA, MS, TN). He also served as an administrative assistant within the IYD Office of the President from 2012-2013. In April 2013, Smith was appointed Louisiana state coordinator for the IYD Southern Region. Later that year, he also became assistant conference coordinator for the Southern Region Music Conference (COGIC). While obtaining a Bachelor of

Political Science/International Law and a Master of Public Administration, he used his opportunities to speak truth to political and educational leaders. His love for truth and people were the impetus for being elected Black Student Union president and the first African American to serve as speaker of the Senate in Louisiana State University's Student Government. Currently Elder Smith, is director of Community and Education Partnerships in the Office of Community University Partnerships, LSU Division of Strategic Communications, Office of the President. In this position, Smith builds and maintains external partnerships with non-profit organizations and government officials on behalf of the president and provost. In 2011, Smith received the Baton Rouge Business Report's "Forty Under 40" award, which honors young men and women who are influencing decisions, capturing the entrepreneurial spirit and balancing bottom-line results with involvement in community and charitable activities. He is a role model to his family, community, and the local church. Recently Elder Smith has intensified his focus on Grace Covenant Community Church's mission; worshiping God, build people, and serve mankind. He consistently leads the people in his charge to model the greatest commandment; love God and love your neighbor. It is for this reason Brandon Smith is being nominated. He has worked to develop family, local church, and community.



### SOPHIA STROTHER - Pflugerville, Texas

Sophia A. Strother, MBA is a phenomenal woman of God and a survivor. Sophia is currently an aspiring missionary at Morning Glory COGIC in Austin, TX overseen by Supt. Frederick

Patterson, Sr. in the Texas Southwest Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction (Bishop SE Iglehart, prelate). She's also the national operations director and executive board secretary for the COGIC International Department of Evangelism Rapid Response Ministry. I've been privileged to know Sophia for over 10 years as she's worked diligently in Central Texas to bring hope and inspiration to thousands. Sophia is the founder of Empowerment Driven by Knowledge Coalition (EDKC), a nonprofit organization founded in 2008, and Learning to Exhale Restoration Strategies. EDKC manages a statewide awareness campaign on sexual abuse and domestic violence titled #GETLOUDGETOUT, and "Creating a SAFE ZONE within the Church," which trains ministries nationally how to address domestic violence, sexual assault/harassment and mental health in their church and communities. Her tireless efforts to raise awareness around domestic violence and sexual abuse led to being commis-



sioned a "Yellow Rose of Texas Award" in 2016, which is given ONLY through the Office of the Governor, and recognizes women for significant contributions to their communities and to Texas in the preservation of Texas history, the accomplishments of our present, and the building of the future. Ms. Strother makes a tremendous impression by connecting to real life experiences. Sophia has authored two books "Sophia I'm Back" and "Taking My Life Back 9 Week Study Guide," detailing her own journey of survival and helping others to overcome their adversities. Sophia enthusiastically exhibits her passion and has helped to raise over \$4.5 million dollars benefitting social, education and economic issues. More recently, testifying to the Texas House of Representatives March 23rd on a bill that was passed and will generate over \$1 MILLION toward prostitution prevention and sex trafficking victim services. She sits on the Governor's Child Sex Trafficking committee, Central Texas Coalition Against Human Trafficking, Faith Alliances Against Abuse, Beyond the Walls Community Liaison and many more initiatives helping to give voice to the otherwise unseen and unheard. Sophia holds a MBA in Marketing and BSBA in Business Management graduating cum laude from American International College. She's a loving and devoted mother of three beautiful children.



### CHRISTIN THORPE - Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania



Christin Thorpe graduated magna cum laude from Hampton University in 2015 with a BA in Liberal Studies (concentration in Community & Social Services). In 2017, she earned her MSW in Community Engagement from the University of Pittsburgh where she was a Center for Race and Social Problems Fellow. During her tenure at Pitt, she also worked as an intern at Bible Center (COGIC) as the program manager for their social enterprise, Everyday Cafe. While there, she established the Grind Time program, where she would identify and invite prominent community leaders to lead the public in various discussions relevant to the community. Christin later served as the community engagement program director for the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary where she developed and managed the Metro-Urban Institute Fellowship Program. She paired seminary students

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and ministers in, urban contexts, for their Christian vocation. Christin is currently employed as a community engagement leader at Thrivent, Inc. - a Christian-based, Fortune 500 financial institution. She is responsible for providing funding and outreach opportunities to individual and Christian organizations. She recently coordinated a project with local pastors and Habitat for Humanity. She will be representing Thrivent as an ambassador for a national Habitat for Humanity effort at the end of April 2019. As a volunteer, Christin created and organized a very successful back-to-school event at Oasis of Love COGIC in Ohio, where she solicited organizations to provide school supplies and services to college students. She also spearheaded a very successful Vacation Bible School/outreach effort at our local church where she ensured that each child was provided with a full meal and a robust curriculum, featuring Bible study with additional modules of art, dance, and music. VBS culminated with inviting the students' parents to Sunday morning service, where the children were featured giving a recap of all the activities from the week. Most notably, Christin established the "Ozzie & Me" scholarship for single mothers enrolled at a college or university. She solicits donations from individuals and companies and was blessed to award her first scholarship in 2018. Christin is on the YWCA of Greater Pittsburgh Young Leaders Board, a member of the Day One Project Policy Committee, and a member of the Board of Directors of the Northside Institutional COGIC. I enthusiastically recommend her as I see her heart for ministry and the less fortunate. Her secular job clearly parallels her passion for serving in the community. She is self-motivated and always looking for opportunities, outside of work, to provide resources and tangible assistance to those who need it. She is affecting change both hands-on and through the myriad leadership roles in which she engages.

### TONY TORAIN II - Owing Mills, Maryland

I am pleased to recommend Tony W. Torain II, Esq., for The Whole Truth's "40 Under 40" recognition. Born on November 6, 1987, he has earned professional success and spiritual influence at a very young age. Mr. Torain is an attorney at Littler and Mendelson, the largest law and employment law firm in the world, where he represents corporate clients in suits against employees, employee groups and unions. He began his legal career at the age of 15 when he started working as an intern in the law firm of Dreschler, Larkin and Walters, a civil defense firm, during the summers and during school breaks. Mr. Torain worked for this firm for three years during high school, the entirety of his college years, and for one year during his law school matriculation. During his second year of law school, he was hired as a law clerk at Semmes, Bowen and Semmes where he later worked for three years as an attorney. He was hired as an attorney at Miles and Stockbridge and served there for three years until he was hired at Littler and Mendelson. Mr. Torain is a graduate of the prestigious prep school, Calvert Hall College High School in Towson, Maryland, where he matriculated at 12 years old and was on the Dean's List seven out of eight semesters. He is a 2008 graduate of Towson University where he studied Business Administration with a concentration in Business Law. He is a 2011 graduate of the University of Maryland School of Law where he served as the secretary/treasurer of the Moot Court Board and as a member of the Black Law Student Association. As a law student, he received the Murphy Family Scholarship for academic achievement, and the Public Service Award for his representation of indigent clients before the District Court of Maryland with the Access to Justice Clinic. He is a member of The Good Shepherd Church of God in Christ in Baltimore, Maryland, where his father, Bishop-Designate Tony W. Torain, is the founding pastor. In his early teens he began playing backup on the keyboard in the church band. At the age of 16, he was tapped by his father to serve as the church's principle musician. He served in the position for 10 years until he took a 3-year hiatus to play the organ for another ministry. However, in 2017 he returned to The Good Shepherd Church to work with his parents in ministry. He now serves as chairman of the Board of Trustees for the church. Additionally, he supports the various ministries of the

church, especially the Youth Ministry, by assisting with the payment of activities costs. He assists in the Music Ministries of the Greater Maryland First Jurisdiction and the Bishop Frank J. Ellis Memorial District, under the leadership of the Minister of Music, Pastor Eric Scott. Mr. Torain serves on the Board of Directors for the Associated Black Charities of Maryland and the Black Mental Health Alliance. He serves as legal counsel to the Baltimore Chapter of the National Association of African Americans in Human Resources. In 2018, he was named "Rising Star Super Lawyer" by superlawyers. com and in 2017, he was featured in COLOR Magazine as an outstanding professional of color. He was featured in



Black Business Review in their 40 under 40 review in 2017. He is a member of the American Bar Association, the Maryland State Bar Association and the Monumental Bar Association. He is licensed to practice law in Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia. We believe that this young man reflects well on the Church of God in Christ both in the church world and in the legal profession. He is a fourth-generation member of the Church of God in Christ where both his father and grandfather served as superintendents, and where his father will soon be consecrated as bishop.

### JULIUS VAN HOOK – Hercules, California

Dr. Julius Van Hook was raised in the fear and admonition of the Lord at the Ephesians Church of God In Christ (Richmond, CA), where he was pastored by his uncle, the late Superintendent Jack P. Spicer. As young man, he answered God's call to preach the Gospel and in 2004 when he joined Genesis Worship Center in Oakland, CA, under the leadership



of Superintendent George A. Matthews, was given a tremendous opportunity to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. He was not only actively involved in several facets of ministry, but through his faithfulness and eagerness to learn, became a very integral part of the everyday operations of the church. As a result of his diligence in ministry, he was ordained as an elder by Bishop W.W. Hamilton in 2011. Dr. Van Hook has been blessed to minister at the local, district, jurisdictional and national levels of The Church of God in Christ, as well as other denominations. Dr. Van Hook, an advocate for education, earned a bachelor's in Organizational Management, with a minor in Biblical Studies from Patten University in Oakland, CA; a Master of Education with a concentration

in Educational Leadership from Concordia University in Portland, Oregon; and was most recently conferred with a Doctorate of Theology from Bell Grove Theological Seminary. He is currently in the process of completing a Master of Divinity Degree from Wesley Seminary in Marion, Indiana. In his secular career, which he commonly refers to as his "Marketplace Ministry," Dr. Van Hook is a social entrepreneur, educator, and a licensed funeral director. He serves as director of spiritual care and interfaith juvenile chaplain of the Contra Costa County Probation Department facilities, Juvenile Hall and Orin Allen Youth Rehabilitation Facility. In addition, Lieutenant Van Hook is a Commissioned Officer in the United States Air Force Reserve, serving in the Chaplain Corps. Most recently, Dr. Van Hook released his debut book entitled, "Do It with Dignity: A 30 day guide to let go of people and things that hold you back." This published work afforded him the opportunity to tour internationally in Africa, China and Australia within just months of its release. His mission is to see souls saved and to love people, with a spirit of excellence, so that ultimately their lives are touched and transformed by the Lord Jesus Christ.

### KELLY WEBB II – Minneapolis, Minnesota

Kelly Fugene Webb II 30

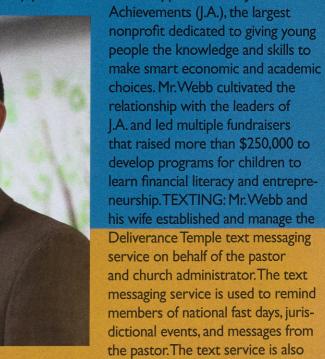
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School prayer. LEARNING: Besides spending time with his wife and children, Mr. Webb's favorite pastime is to listen to COGIC sermons on YouTube. Some of his favorites include Bishop C.D. Owens, Bishop L.H. Ford, Bishop F.D. Washington, Bishop J.O. Patterson, Elder S.E. Mitchell, Bishop Wooden, Bishop Daniels, Bishop Sheard, Bishop G.E. Patterson, Bishop Felton Smith, Bishop Whitehead, Bishop Range, Bishop W.A. Patterson and Bishop R.L.

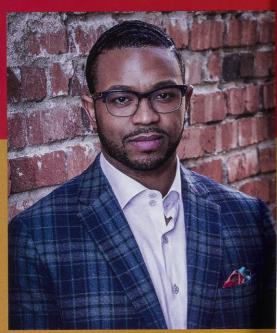
Winbush. He reads the Bible before he gets out of bed and before he prays at night. He studies the Word when he has downtime at work and reads the Word with his wife and to his children. VOLUNTEERING: Mr. Webb works an additional workday on Saturdays to take time to volunteer every Thursday from 1:00-9:00 p.m. at the Deliverance Temple Church of God in Christ – Mother Fannie Webb Food Shelf. He sets up, distributes food, cleans and does all the heavy lifting necessary to get things done. In 2018, the church supplied more than 101,000 pounds of food and more than 61,000 meals to families in the St. Paul, MN area. Professionally, Mr. Webb was chosen to be the primary point of contact for Upper Midwest Junior



used to keep in touch with visitors and welcome them to upcoming services, Bible studies and events. This man of God was taught by his parents to be a great servant of Christ; to uphold Biblical standards; to be a dedicated and honorable husband; and an excellent father to his children. He was taught: "If you find the God of the Bible, everything will be alright." TWT

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in Educational Leadership from Concordia recently conferred with a Doctorate of The currently in the process of completing a M in Marion, Indiana. In his secular career, wh Ministry," Dr. Van Hook is a social entrepr He serves as director of spiritual care and County Probation Department facilities, Juve Facility. In addition, Lieutenant Van Hook is

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Air Force Reserve, serving in the Chaplain Corps. Most recently, Dr. Van Hook released his debut book entitled, "Do It with Dignity: A 30 day guide to let go of people and things that hold you back." This published work afforded him the opportunity to tour internationally in Africa, China and Australia within just months of its release. His mission is to see souls saved and to love people, with a spirit of excellence, so that ultimately their lives are touched and transformed by the Lord Jesus Christ.

DIGITAL & PRINTED VERSIONS

### KELLY WEBB II – Minneapolis, Minnesota

Kelly Eugene Webb II, 30, was born to parents Superintendent Pastor Kelly Webb, Sr. and First Lady Missionary Debra Webb in May 1989. Mr. Webb a husband, father of three children (ages 4, 2 and 1), and the stepfather to one 15 year old. He is a member of Deliverance Temple Church of God in Christ in Woodbury, MN and serves as an ordained deacon in the church, the head of finance, and as traveling adjunct to the pastor. Mr. Webb is a branch manager for TCF Bank Corp. branch manager and a man of God who exemplifies leadership and loves the Church of God in Christ. He is respectable, loyal, an excellent husband and father, depended on by his pastor and first lady, and is admired by his peers and family. PRAISE: Mr. Webb

is the drummer for Deliverance Temple. This is his praise every Sunday. He often says that no matter if there are three people or three thousand at Church Sunday, he will give the same effort because he needs God too much. While other musicians receive payment, Mr. Webb does not. He lives by the standard that he owes God. PRAYER: Mr. Webb is a praying man. He will pray over the smallest mint to the largest meal. Mr. Webb prays for hours at night, according to his wife, often falling asleep on his knees in prayer. In addition to being the head of church finance and the drummer, Mr. Webb opens Sunday Service with prayer and often leads the Sunday

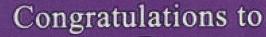
School prayer. LEARNING: Besides spending time with his wife and children, Mr. Webb's favorite pastime is to listen to COGIC sermons on YouTube. Some of his favorites include Bishop C.D. Owens, Bishop L.H. Ford, Bishop F.D. Washington, Bishop J.O. Patterson, Elder S.E. Mitchell, Bishop Wooden, Bishop Daniels, Bishop Sheard, Bishop G.E. Patterson, Bishop Felton Smith, Bishop Whitehead, Bishop Range, Bishop W.A. Patterson and Bishop R.L.

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Achievements (J.A.), the largest nonprofit dedicated to giving young people the knowledge and skills to make smart economic and academic choices. Mr. Webb cultivated the relationship with the leaders of J.A. and led multiple fundraisers that raised more than \$250,000 to develop programs for children to learn financial literacy and entrepreneurship.TEXTING: Mr. Webb and his wife established and manage the Deliverance Temple text messaging service on behalf of the pastor and church administrator. The text messaging service is used to remind members of national fast days, jurisdictional events, and messages from the pastor. The text service is also

used to keep in touch with visitors and welcome them to upcoming services, Bible studies and events. This man of God was taught by his parents to be a great servant of Christ; to uphold Biblical standards; to be a dedicated and honorable husband; and an excellent father to his children. He was taught: "If you find the God of the Bible, everything will be alright." **TWT** 





# Christian Denise Lewis

2019 Recipient of the 40 Under 40
The Whole Truth Magazine - Church of God in Christ, Inc.



Director of Women, Breaking Chains Outreach Ministries © O.G.I.C.
Community Health Professional, Poet, Psalmist, Missionary, Philanthropist, Educator & Advocate

The Freedom District along with
Administrative Assistant Darthanian Nichols & District Missionary Nina Hunt
and the Breaking Chains Outreach Ministries C.O.G.I.C.

would like to congratulate Missy. Christian Lewis

on her award we love you and pray Gods continued blessings and favor upon your life!



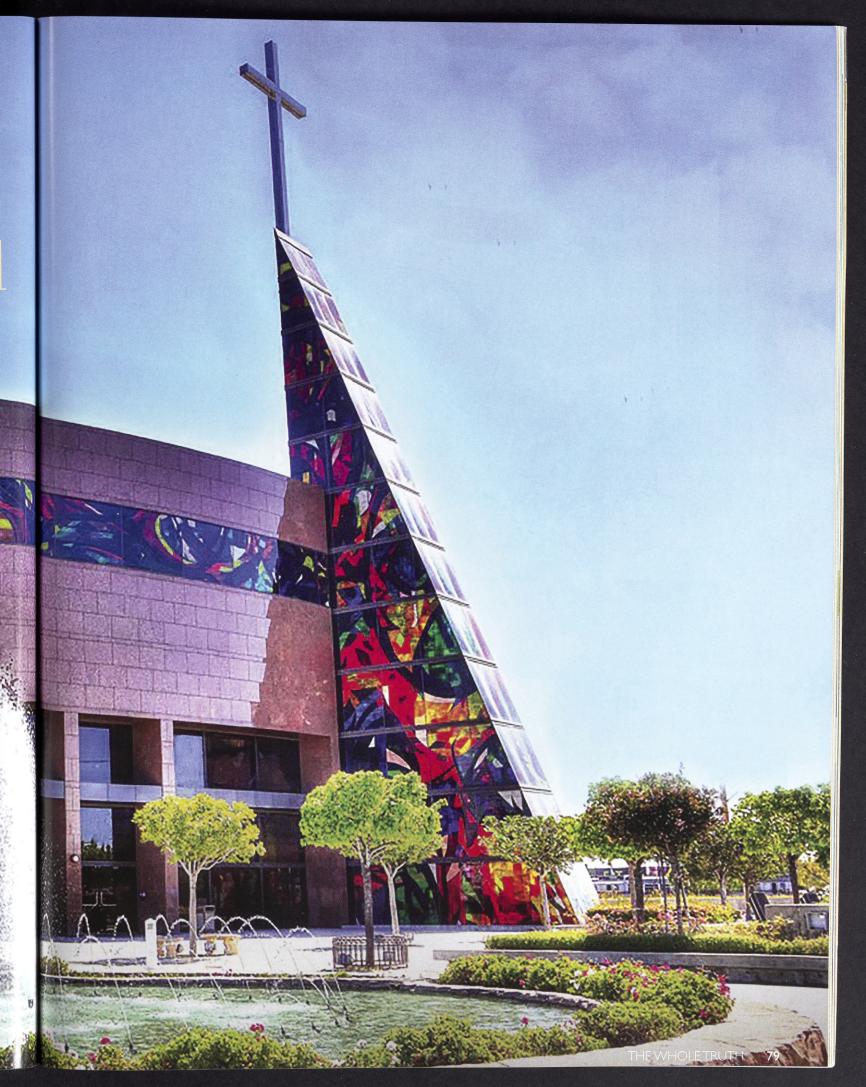


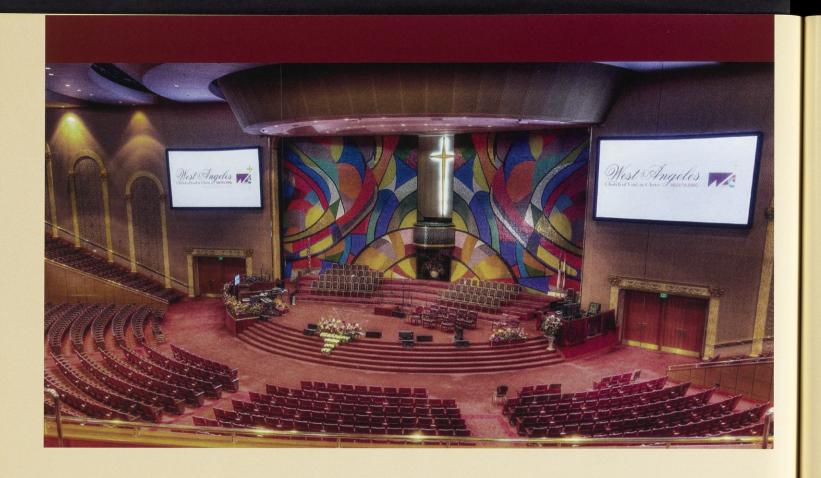


# West Angeles CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

Signs Blockbuster Deal







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# Bishop Charles E. Blake's promise to pay off the mortgage of West Angeles Cathedral and build Family Life Center fulfilled

West Angeles Church of God in Christ (WACOGIC) has been a staple of South Los Angeles for over 50 years. As its membership has grown from 25 congregants to over 20,000 weekly attendees, so has its commitment toimprovements on the Crenshaw Corridor and South Los Angeles. WACOGIC closed on a deal to sell some of its properties with the guarantee that future uses will improve, beautify and revitalize the Crenshaw Corridor. The deal will also enable WACOGIC to build its Family Life Center, pay off the mortgage on the WACOGIC Cathedral, and establish a financial reserve.

### Bishop Charles E. Blake led a team of experts

to review and negotiate the numerous unsolicited offers for the properties. The sold properties,

including administrative offices, the church annex and theater, were used primarily for WACOGIC parishioners. The new development uses will attract, employ and engage the greater South Los Angeles community. "We know of the tremendous value our property holds, not just financially but its importance to our community. We count it a blessing to have our properties developed in a manner that will beautify the Crenshaw Corridor and provide resources and opportunities to the community."

**WACOGIC** hired real estate expert, Kacy Keys of Praxis Development Group, as an advisor to manage the development deal. "Kacy's reputation as one of Los Angeles' most influential women in real estate and her track record of success in projects that positively impact urban communities, made her the right choice in managing this deal. She managed a process to ensure that we obtained the best deal for the

church and the community," said

Officer of WACOGIC. The trans-

Gladys Ross, Chief Operations

action was negotiated to include restrictions on the future use of the properties. Nuisance businesses, including, but not limited to bars, cannabis businesses and strip clubs will never be permitted. In addition, the deal is scheduled to close in phases, which will allow West







Angeles to continue to occupy its North Campus facilities while the Family Life Center is being built. "West Angeles is an incredible organization doing meaningful work. Building lives and providing amazing services to the community – youth programs, healthy living programs, counseling services, etc. – with a continual focus on building values and community through worship. Negotiating a deal that allowed the church to capitalize on

land value, remain a stable presence in the neighborhood for years to come, and stay true to its values and mission was paramount," said Keys.

Bishop Blake understands the importance of demonstrating fiscal strategy and responsibility. The deal represents the culmination of his business plan and spiritual vision. WACOGIC will use the proceeds from the sale to build a Family Life Center that will provide scores of community services; pay off the mortgage of its Cathedral, and establish a financial reserve. "Paying rtgage ensures that the Crenshaw Corridor will forever have a house of worship that cares about its community. I am thankful to God that **West Angeles Church of** God in Christ can play such an important part in the future development and beautification of the South Los Angeles community," said Bishop Blake, TWT

\*The first phase of the transaction close on Monday, October 1, 2019.

\*Information recited from West Angeles Church press release.



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# AN OFFER YOU CAN'T REFUSE

By Evangelist Missionary Marion McNair

When was the last time someone made you an offer you couldn't refuse? Perhaps it was from a telemarketer, a friend, a neighbor, or even a spouse. In life, we are bombarded with unsolicited telephone calls by someone trying to convince us that they have something we need; something that will make our life better. The person claims it will enhance our persona in one way or another. Although I usually hang up, the telemarketer will call back the next day. Their persistence is annoying. Even after I've put their number on the "Do Not Call" list, they continue to call.

My telephone rings several times a day. I look at my phone while call screening and as suspected - a telemarketer. Like many, I had stopped answering the telephone. Now, I have a special ring for family and friends and ignore all other calls.

One day, while contemplating my next move to stop the avalanche of phone calls that I received on a daily basis, I began to feel a certain kind of way. The Scripture came to me, "I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me" Rev. 3:20 (NKJV).

Like the telemarketers, Jesus is persistent. He stands at the door of our hearts consistently knocking. Notice, Jesus is a gentleman. He stands there waiting for us to open the door. He is not going to break the door down. He's not going to shake us into the realization of our need for Him. He's not going to phone a friend. No. It's an individual thing. And even when we refuse Him, He's not going to give up because He has an offer you cannot refuse.

Some people try to treat Jesus like they do the telemarketer. They put Him on the "Do Not Call" list, but He must get through by any means necessary, constantly knocking at your heart's door. You try \*60 to try to block Him, but He's still knocking. No matter how hard you try, you're not going to be able to get rid of Jesus until you answer the door.

Many people don't worry about the door to their hearts because they believe they are good people; they do good deeds. They give to charities, do volunteer work and believe these things will get them into Heaven. However, good works cannot save you.

Others feel a longing in their soul and know something is amiss, but are unwilling to change and therefore fill the yearning with things like alcohol and drugs. "...How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him..." Heb. 2:3.

May I tell you that nothing will bring you more joy, peace, and fulfillment than the satisfaction of knowing that your sins are forgiven and your future is spent dining with Jesus? God has provided reconciliation for us through His son Jesus Christ. "Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation" 2 Corinthians 5:18. This is wonderful news. Because of God's infinite love for us, He didn't want to leave us in our sins, so He restored His relationship with us through Christ's death on the Cross. Because of the redemptive work of Christ on the Cross, we are forgiven of our sins and restored back to God completely.

If you are unsure of your relationship with God, repeat this prayer after me: "Lord Jesus, please forgive me for all my sins. Wash me in your blood and cleanse me from all unrighteousness. I believe you died on the Cross, were buried, and on the third day you were raised from the dead. Lord Jesus, I open the door to my heart and accept you as my Lord and Savior. Amen." **TWT** 

Marion McNair is an Evangelist Missionary at West Angeles COGIC (Los Angeles, CA) where she sings in the Mass Choir.

### Congratulations

Karen Burks

A Recipient of "The Whole Truth 40 Under 40 Award"



**SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP:** 8:00AM & 11:00AM

**CELEBRATE HOLY COMMUNION: EACH IST SUNDAY** 

SCHOOL ON SUNDAYS

**POWER 4 LIVING** 9:30am

**ADULT CHRISTIAN FORMATION** 9:30am

WEDNESDAYS

**CORPORATE & INTERCESSORY PRAYER** 6:30pm

> MIDWEEK RENEWAL 7:00pm

**Lady Mary** 

Ellis

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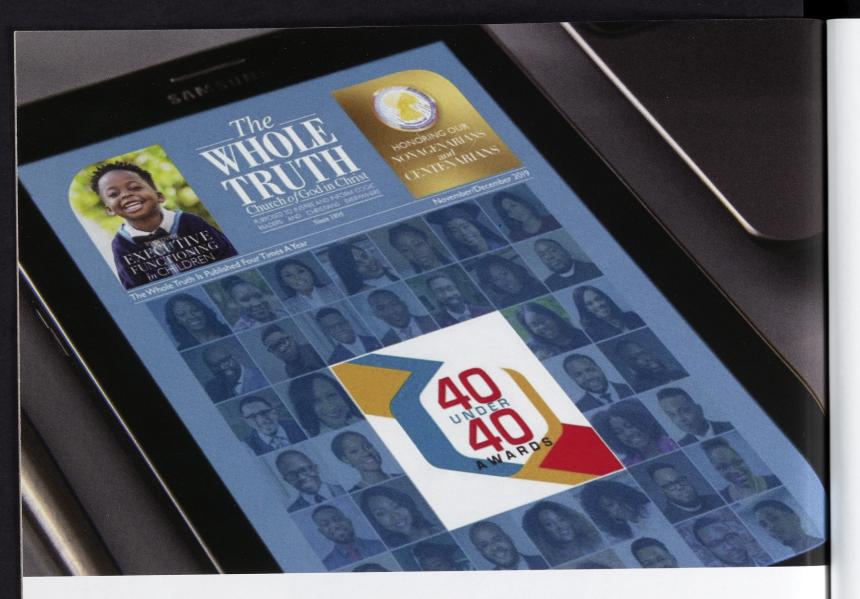
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WE ARE GODLY PROUD OF YOU! WE LOVE YOU! YOUR RODGERS FAMILY! PROVERBS 3: 1 - 4



# As The World E-Turns? A Survey of TWT as Digital-Only

By April E. Quillen

It's no mystery that the Digital Age is here. Suffice it to say that the Digital Age is not only here to stay, but to inundate practically every industry. From electronic medical records in healthcare, to online shopping in retail, to the ever-widening use of mobile pay and digital wallet services, to an impending one-world economy operated solely by digital currency – clearly, there is no turning back.

As we've all surely noticed, some industries have made major adjustments in the way they conduct business to allow the Digital Age to take form (not that they've had much choice). Many retail stores, for example, have closed their brick and mortar locations, forced by an influx of online shoppers. Even many churches, as another example, have made concession for parishioners who prefer to "attend" service via online streaming – also known as "e-church members"? Hmmm. Ready or not, the Digital Age has certainly come.

It's clear that adjusting for such technologically-advanced times is necessary for us all. As such, The Whole Truth magazine may, too, completely go the way of technology and offer our subscribers a digital-only format, eliminating the availability of our editorial in print altogether.

Before making such an adjustment, however, we would very much like to check the pulse of our invaluable subscribers. We need to know that we would have your continued support in a digital-only environment.

The facts are, with the current cost of quality color printing and increasing costs of postage, The Whole Truth would need to substantially increase the cost of its annual subscription – something we would greatly prefer NOT to do. Contrarily, a digital-only environment

would substantially decrease our costs. In fact, we anticipate being able to offer an annual, digital-only subscription for nearly half the current price!

Before making final decisions, we'd very much like to know what you all think. By the end of 2019, TWT would offer a digital subscription only. However, any print subscribers who remain in the system would receive a printed magazine until their subscription runs out. By the end of December 2020, our goal would be for all valued subscribers to be completely digital.

So, who's with us? Please visit **COGIC**. **ORG** and reply to the TWT digital-only

survey provided. Although the times may call for an adjustment, we cannot do so without your support. Please take our survey today; we very much want to hear from you! **TWT** 





A
New Challenge
for the
21st Century
Church

"Do not let your hearts be troubled (distressed, agitated). You believe in and adhere to and trust in and rely on God; believe in and adhere to and trust in and rely also on Me"

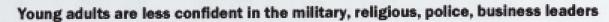
—John 14:1 (AMP).

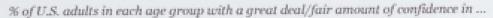
By Evangelist DeLisa Reed

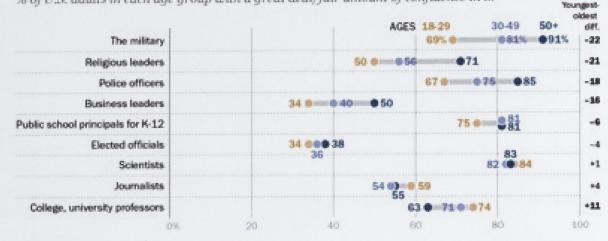
### WHAT IS THE TRUTH ANYMORE?

It is apparent that we are living in a time in our country where truth, and more importantly trust, has become a precious commodity, to say the very least. Of course, Jesus stated in Matthew 24:10:"And then many will be offended and repelled and will begin to distrust and desert [Him Whom they ought to trust and obey] and will stumble and fall away and betray one another and pursue one another with hatred." Those of us who believe the Bible and who trust in God should not be surprised at what is consistently happening in our country or in the Body of Christ – correct?

Unfortunately, that is not the case for either the country or for the church. An alarmingly growing number of individuals have lost faith in the country's elected officials and in fact, the political process itself. Unfortunately, many young adults are fleeing the faith because of what they view as systemic failing models in both church governance and loss of trust for those in leadership. A recent Pew Research Survey (conducted between November 27–December 10, 2018), revealed that young Americans between the ages of 18-29 trust college professors more than military, police and religious leaders.







Note: Statistically significant differences shown in bold. Source: Survey conducted Nov. 27-Dec. 10, 2018. "Trust and Distrust in America"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

In comparison, the research shows that people who are 50+ years of age have more trust in the military, police, and elected officials than religious leaders. Additionally, individuals 30-49 have more confidence in scientists, public school K-12 principals, and the military than in religious leaders.

So, what does that say about us—the Elect of Christ, the Saved, the Spirit-filled believers—in the Body of Christ?

Leadership, in this case, has a lot more to say about our "witness" than it does about the leadership of our respective churches. It would be easy to assume that when speaking of religious leaders, this denotes bishops, supervisors, superintendents, pastors, elders, and missionaries, and to further assume that these are the only leaders the survey is referencing. However, that line of thinking couldn't be further from the truth. First, when we confess with our mouth the Lord Jesus, and unwaveringly believe in our heart that God has indeed raised Jesus from the dead, then we become the mirrors which reflect the image of Christ. Therefore, the unsaved, the backslidden, and the saved should be able to trust what they see in the mirror. It is not required for you to have a title in order for this to happen. Secondly, perhaps the "religious" ones are the problem. There is a difference between those who practice religion and

those whose lives exemplify the Spirit of Christ as a saint of God. Saints understand the significance of their witness in this world. Saints take to heart and demonstrate the very substance and truth of God's Word. Saints are careful not to mishandle in word or deed the awesome responsibility they have been given to epitomize Christ at all times.

The definition of trust, according to Webster's Dictionary, is to have a firm belief in the reliability, truth, ability, or strength of someone or something. Trust encompasses confidence in, expectation of, and replicates faith supported by evidence, and a hope in what's not seen - which in this case, would be our integrity. This is what American society is desiring and sorely missing. This country does not need any more spiritual theatrics, gimmicks, or operatic exaggerations. This world, our country, and in particular, our church needs IESUS CHRIST and all that HE envelopes! He is in whom we place our trust.

If you are saved and having trust issues within the Body of Christ, what measures can be taken to increase your level of trust?

- **I. BELIEVE THE BIBLE.** David stated in part in Psalm 138:2 and God had "exalted His Word above ALL His name." There is not anything that we encounter in life that is not addressed in the Word of God. Numbers 23:19 states, "God is not a man that He should lie; neither the Son of man that He should repent: Hath He said, and shall He not do it? Or hath He spoken, and shall He not make it good?" It is imperative that we stand on the sure, firm foundation of God's Word because His Word will not fail us.
- 2. HAVE FAITH IN GOD. As believers, it makes no sense to become saved then lose faith in the God of your salvation. Psalm 146:3 states, "Do not put your trust in princes, Nor in a son of man, in whom there is no help." The Berean Study Bible says it like this: "Put not your trust in princes, in mortal man, who cannot save."
- TRUST THE PROCESS EVEN WHEN YOU CANNOT TRACE THE PROCESSOR. The Holy Ghost guides the believer in all truth (I John 16:13). The Lord admonishes us to trust in Him with all our hearts and not lean to our own understanding. He further assures that when we commit all of our ways to Him, He will direct our path(s) (Proverbs 3:5-6). Trusting the very God of order provides the certainty that God will avenge His very elect (Luke 18:7). You do not have to fight for yourself but as Exodus 14:13 states, "Stand still and see the salvation of the Lord."
- 4. DO NOT FALL FOR FIRST IMPRESSIONS. Have you ever heard someone say "everything that glitters is not gold?" This is an awesomely true statement. Unfortunately, there have been so many schemes performed in the name of Christianity that it is sometimes challenging to distinguish between what is true versus what is false. There are many who lay hands, speak in tongues, prophesy, and testify to their greatness. Il Corinthians 11:13-15 states, "For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. So it is no surprise if his servants, also, disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. Their end will correspond to their deeds." This is why you should ask God to give you the spirit of discernment to uncover the truth. As a result, the truth of I John 4:1 becomes illuminated to us when admonished to "not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world."
- 5. Lastly, **FOLLOW YOUR CONVICTIONS.** John 14: 8-12 reads like this: Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." Jesus replied, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and yet you still don't know who I am? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father! So why are you asking me to show Him to you? Don't you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I speak are not my own, but my Father who lives in me does His work through me. Just believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me. Or, at least believe because of the work you have seen me do. I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father."

d

The whole gist of this conversation between Jesus and Philip is that by now, you should know in whom you believe. As a result of God continuously blessing, performing miracles, making ways, opening doors, and divinely protecting you from the wiles of the enemy—your conviction in God should reaffirm your faith and assurance in Him that whomever you meet, whatever you are presented with, and whatever you have asked in HIS name, He will guide YOU in all truth and perform that which you have placed before Him according to His will!

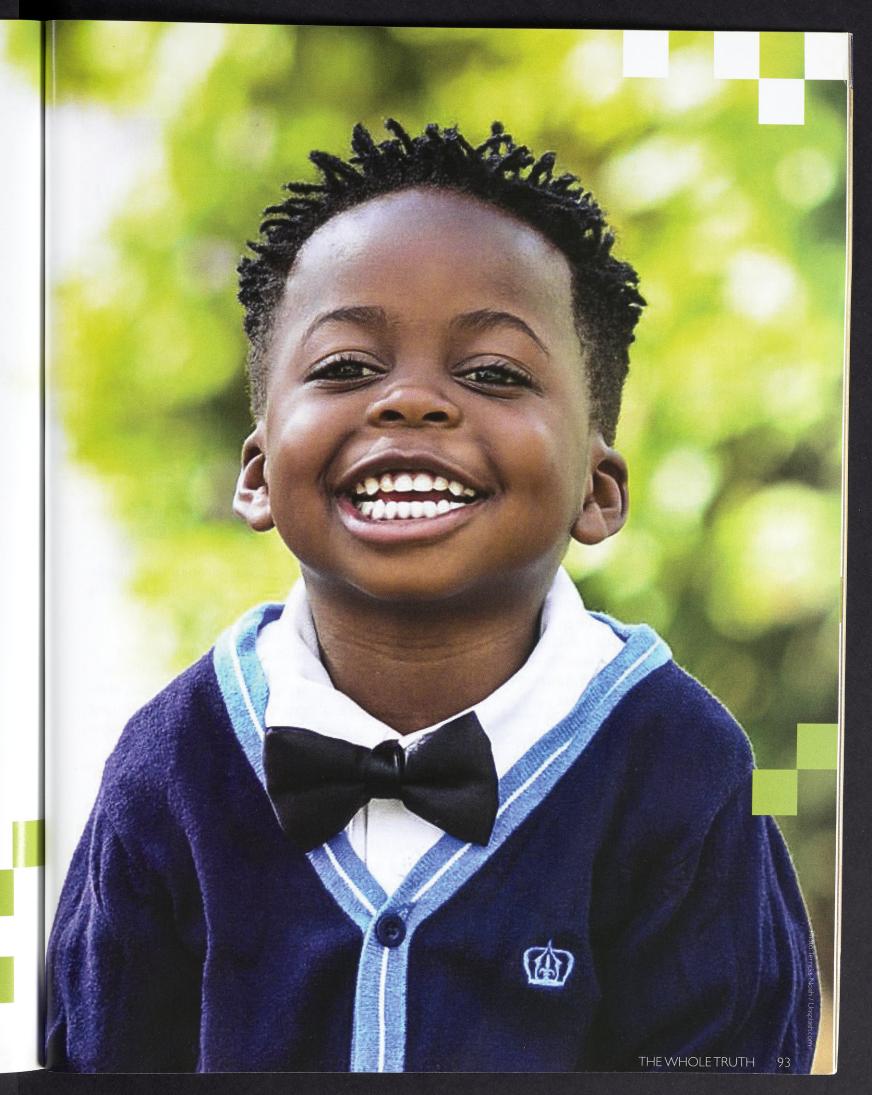
The issue of trust is not an issue for those who believe in God. We must take our eyes off of the frailty of man and place our confidence in the One who will NEVER leave, forsake, or fail us. We must embrace our witness and utilize the gifts and callings that Jesus Christ has given us to impact eternity. It is at this point in which we will understand what it means to have Total Reliance Upon Spiritual Truth – realizing that the absolute T.R.U.T.H. is God and God alone. **TWT** 

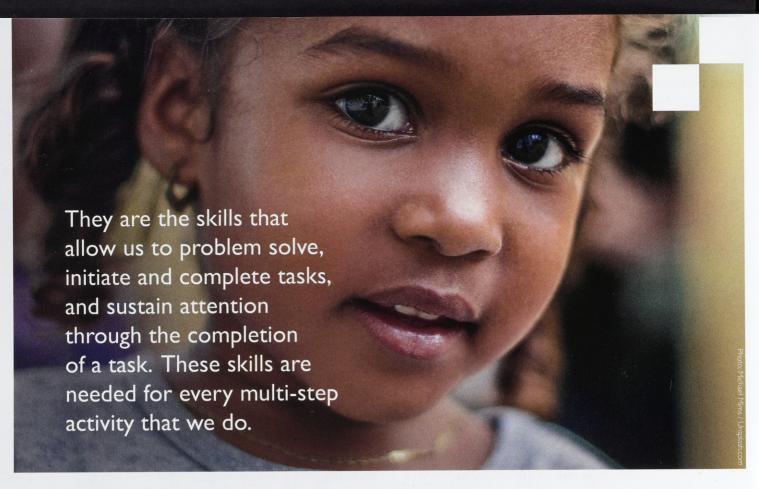
Dee, a 32-year veteran public school educator, is a member of Cathedral of Faith COGIC in Euless, TX. She is a member of Texas Northeast First Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction which is led by her pastor & bishop, the Honorable Bishop James E. Hornsby and Supervisor of Women, Mother Pia Haynes-Williams.

# EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONING in CHILDREN

By Kimberly V. Porter, M.Ed.

We all experience diverse emotions daily. Often, we have been disappointed, reacted to issues and or circumstances through some form of anger, and even low self-esteem. I would like to present to you the subject matter of "executive functioning." Executive Functioning is a term used, in general, to describe a person's ability to effectively manage and respond to an emotional experience. This can make everyday tasks difficult for our early learners. Emotional experience involves the ability to restrain or stop certain emotions such as trauma, joy, sorrow, fear, hate, what one may like or love. These emotions are regulated and controlled by the prefrontal cortex and frontal lobe (impulse control, judgment, decision making, time management, personality, task initiation, persistence) and the limbic system (regulation of emotions).





### PROCESSING OF INFORMATION

Working memory governs our ability to retain and manipulate distinct pieces of information over short periods of time. Mental flexibility helps us to sustain or shift attention in response to different demands, or to apply different rules in different settings. Self-control enables us to set priorities and resist impulsive actions or responses. Donald Norman and Tip Shallice outlined five types of situations in which routine activation of behavior would not be sufficient for optimal performance, and where executive functions must kick-in, in situations that involve planning or decision making, situations that involve error correction or trouble-shooting, situations where responses are not well-rehearsed or contain novel sequences of actions, dangerous or technically difficult situations and situations that require overcoming strong habitual response or resisting temptation.

### **EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONING DEVEL- OPMENT IN CHILDHOOD STUDIES**

Executive functioning development in childhood studies have shown different contexts for different age ranges and in a widespread series of actions or steps taken in order to achieve a particular end process. Executive functioning skills are a set

of abilities that are essential for thinking through and completing tasks. They are the skills that allow us to problem solve, initiate and complete tasks, and sustain attention through the completion of a task. These skills are needed for every multi-step activity that we do.

According to Dr. Matthew Rouse, "Self-regulation is the ability to manage your emotions and behavior in accordance with the demands of the situation. It includes being able to resist highly emotional reactions to upsetting stimuli, to calm yourself down when you get upset, to adjust to a change in expectations, and to handle frustration without an outburst. It is a set of skills that enables children, as they mature, to direct their own behavior towards a goal, despite the unpredictability of the world and our own feelings." Executive function is responsible for a number of skills, including paying attention, organizing, planning and prioritizing, starting tasks and staying focused on them to completion, understanding different points of view, regulating emotions and self-monitoring (keeping track of what you're doing).

As an educator for more than 10 years, wonderful opportunities have flourished within providing diverse positions within my early child-

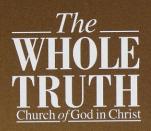
hood education career. Throughout my teaching experience, discovering that when children are part of an environment that is reflective, the individual learner can learn to make better choices when they are more thoughtful, reflective and self-aware, as educators learn to slow down and model self-reflection and self-awareness and self-regulation for our early learners. Our early learners learn much more by imitation than they do by instruction. For example, if a child often sees or hears yelling from an adult, and sees or hears the adult act in a frustrated manner when he or she is not able to get their way, it's no surprise if the child learns to react in the same way.

### SUGGESTIONS ON HOW TO HELP OUR EARLY LEARNERS:

- Start Early Early learners are capable of improving executive functioning with executive functioning training.
- **Develop Memory Skills -** When working on memory skills, the individual learners' working memory skills may improve while switching from one task to another. By doing this, you are able to assist in improving executive function skills across many more domains.
- **Challenge the Scholars** Increase the difficulty of executive function tasks as scholars improve. Teaching is an all-day long event. Each day, practice executive function skills throughout the day and share what you are doing with parents and/or guardians to affirm continual practice at home, and learning in various environments. Scholars will gain greatly in executive function skills when following rigorous executive function skills and tasks.
- 4) Offer activities where children are self-motivated to improve Scholars work really hard when they are able to be involved in tasks that motivate them.
- 5) Independent thinking Allow the scholar to work on a certain skill. The individual learner will be able to create, change and communicate what they have done.
- **Providing choices -** Scholars are more motivated if they have a say in what they are doing.
- **Teaching self-direction -** Our early learners will feel a sense of accomplishment when they are able to do exciting things by themselves. This is truly the power of positive thinking. Having an "I can do all things" attitude will help tremendously in building our early learners' confidence in all areas of development. Provide "visuals" such as posters and beautiful photos of the scholars in action! Remember to ask questions (who, what, when, where, how), and to encourage scholars to think for themselves.

In short, children often imitate what they see and hear, all the early learner knows is what they know. If someone gets anxious when their child is frustrated or disappointed, the child will get anxious as well. Early learners who are dealing with anxiety can often be mistaken for having behavioral problems or learning disabilities. Therefore, providing the support and resources that our early learners and parents require concerning executive functioning skill development is indeed an essential necessity for home and school environments. I encourage parents and/or guardians to learn all they can about executive functioning and how it can manifest in various disorders. **TWT** 

Kimberly V. Porter, M. Ed. is an Early Childhood Development professional, author, and editor-in-chief for eLATION Magazine. Kimberly is a member of Unity Temple Church of God in Christ, Minneapolis Minnesota, under the leadership of Superintendent Ezra Fagge'Tt.





### HONORING OUR

# NONAGENARIANS and CENTENARIANS

By Evangelist Missionary Sandra Williams

"The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow."

—Psalm 90:10

The Whole Truth salutes the beautiful people of God who are enduring the test of time. Like the oak tree, they have proven strong, and like the palm tree, they have shown flexibility. We have seen their silver hair as resplendent as the red maple in fall, and their resilience like the evergreen in winter. We praise God for their usefulness like the olive and fig trees. They have survived being crushed and God has renewed them over and over again. Even as they have aged, they are as lovely as the magnolia tree. We honor these nonagenarians and centenarians today.

If you wish to submit names to honor others in this cherished age group, please feel free to contact Dr. Wilma Beauford, Chairperson of the General Assembly's Special Recognition Committee at wsmithbeauford@gmail.com.

Sandra Thompson Williams is an evangelist missionary, author and member of New Mount Zion Church in St. Louis. Superintendent Jessie J. Smith is pastor. She serves in Eastern Missouri First. Bishop William Harper is prelate and Mother Josephine Boyd is Supervisor.

## Nonagenarians Honorees (90-99 years of age)

Mother Beatrice Scales
91 years (April 1, 1928)
Tennessee Fifth
Bishop Jerry W. Taylor
Supervisor Mardest VanHooks

Mother Gladyce Ruffin Johnson 94 years (June 1, 1925) Greater North Carolina Bishop Leroy Jackson Woolard Supervisor Harrizene Keys

> Deacon Theodore E. Morris 98 years (April 8, 1921) Kansas Southwest Bishop Mark L. Gilkey Supervisor Vicki Taylor

Elder Douglas Rollin, Jr 92 years (June 6, 1927) Historic Indiana First Bishop Mark H. Blade Supervisor Darlene Stone

Mother Mildred McHenry 94 years (April 10, 1925) Ohio Northwest Bishop Clifford Kimbrough, Jr. Supervisor Blondean Jones Mother Geraldine Dean 96 years (June 6, 1923) Sixth Jurisdiction Of Illinois Bishop Clowdell Williams, Sr. Supervisor Dr. Angie Cullins

Mother Mayo Bowen 97 years (April 29, 1922) Southern Georgia Second Bishop J. Wayne Leggett Supervisor Amy Engram

Mother Ernestine Spruill 95 years (June 12, 1924) Greater North Carolina Bishop Leroy Jackson Woolard Supervisor Harrizene Keys

Evangelist Anna L. Jefferson 91 years (May 18, 1928) Greater North Carolina Bishop Leroy Jackson Woolard Supervisor Harrizene Keys

Mother Lena Mae Willis 93 years (June 29, 1926) California Northwest Bishop Nathaniel A. Bullock Supervisor Roshonda McDonald

## Nonagenarians Honorees (90-99 years of age)

Mother Jean J. Anderson 91 years (June 1, 1928) Michigan Great Lakes Second Bishop Dwight E. Walls, Sr. Supervisor Jacqueline Adside

Mother Rosa Lee Coons
91 years (July 25, 1928)
Second Jurisdiction of Eastern New York
Bishop Rothel Highsmith
Supervisor Dr. Gail Smith

Mother Pauline Irvin
93 years (July 26, 1926)
Northeast Michigan
Bishop P. A. Brooks
Supervisor Norma Burrell

Mother Katherine Bell 91 years (July 29, 1928) New York Western 1st Bishop James Wright Supervisor Althea Chaplin

Elder Willis Oldham 92 years (September 8, 1927) Ohio Northwest Bishop Clifford Kimbrough, Jr. Supervisor Blondean Jones Pastor Rufus Bradford 97 years (July 31, 1922) Greater Northern California Second Bishop Johnathan D. Logan, Sr.

Mother Gussie Freeman 92 years (September 8, 1927) Tennessee Fifth Bishop Jerry W. Taylor Supervisor Mardest VanHooks

Deaconess Missionary Mamie Johnson 91 years (August 5, 1928) Ohio Northwest Bishop Clifford Kimbrough, Jr. Supervisor Blondean Jones

Mother Blanche Irene Clay 96 years (August 17, 1923) 5th Illinois West Bishop James E. Washington Supervisor Cleolia Penix

Mother Eva Mae Lloyd 90 years (October 10, 1928) Greater North Carolina Bishop Leroy Jackson Woolard Supervisor Harrizene Keys

## Nonagenarians Honorees (90-99 years of age)

Mother Sylvia Battle Meredith 91 years (August 21, 1928) Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Bishop Guy L. Glimp Supervisor Katie Allen

Mother Lessie Mae Gray 96 years (October 14, 1922) Texas Northeast First Bishop James E. Hornsby Supervisor Pia Haynes Williams

Missionary Josephine Reeves 95 years (August 30, 1924) Greater North Carolina Bishop Leroy Jackson Woolard Supervisor Harrizene Keys

Mother Lucille Randolph Simmons
91 years (October 30, 1927)
Tennessee Fifth
Bishop Jerry W. Taylor
Supervisor Mardest VanHooks

Superintendent Robert J. Lewis 94 years (November 15, 1924) Northern California First Bishop Albert Galbraith, Jr. Supervisor Geraldine Campbell Deacon Anderson Wade 96 years (November 16, 1922) Greater North Carolina Bishop Leroy Jackson Woolard Supervisor Harrizene Keys

Mother Annie Mae Beard-Patterson 91 years (November 26, 1927) Sixth Jurisdiction of Illinois Bishop Clowdell Williams, Sr. Supervisor Dr. Angie Cullins

District Missionary Ruby Jewel Cason 92 years (February 2, 1927) Northwest Florida Bishop Willie C. Green Supervisor Dollie Reed

# Centenarians Honorees (100+ years of age)



Mother Pearl Porter 105 years (August 8, 1914) Alabama First Jurisdiction Bishop Oscar L. Meadows Supervisor Mattie Taylor



Mother Beatrice Haynes 103 years (September 7, 1916) Texas Greater Southeast First Jurisdiction Bishop Johnny A. Tates Supervisor Dr. Lena McClain

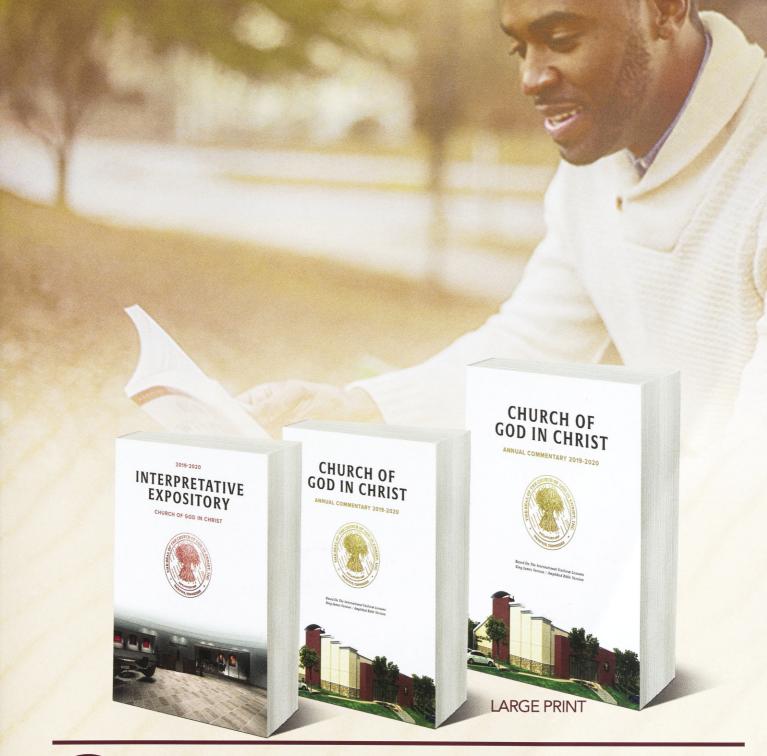


Mother Geneva O. Goodnight 101 years (November 4, 1918) Western Pennsylvania First Jurisdiction Bishop James M. Foster Supervisor Dr. Wilma Beauford



Evangelist Mandy Lee Anderson 104 years (November 16, 1914) Texas Greater Southeast First Jurisdiction Bishop Johnny A. Tates Supervisor Dr. Lena McClain

Deacon Hugh Maxwell, Jr. 100 years (September 13, 1919) Northeast Michigan Bishop P. A. Brooks Supervisor Norma Burrell



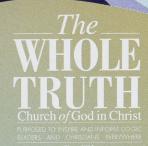


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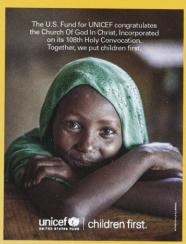
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